VARIOUS MEASURES

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION
ON
H. Res. 931, H. Res. 1006, H. Res. 1052,
H. Res. 1055, H.R. 1567, H.R. 4591, H.R. 5723,
H.R. 6018, H.R. 6413, and H.R. 6651
SEPTEMBER 27, 2018
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VARIOUS MEASURES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

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

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

Chairman ROYCE. Pursuant to notice, we meet today to mark up 10 bipartisan measures. 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 the members—and also, by the way, it's in your packets here—will all be considered en bloc and are considered as read.

And they are House Resolution 931, regarding the Ukrainian famine back from 1932-1933; House Resolution 1006, condemning the deteriorating situation in Venezuela with the Cook Amendment 64 in the nature of a substitute and the Sires Amendment 22; House Resolution 1052, affirming United States-Australia space cooperation; House Resolution 1055, affirming strong United States-Liberia ties; H.R. 1567, United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act with the Castro Amendment 104 in the nature of a substitute; H.R. 4591, Preventing Iranian Destabilization of Iraq Act with the Kinzinger Amendment 35 in the nature of a substitute and the Poe Amendment 114 and Wilson Amendment 70; H.R. 5273—this is the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018 with the Engel Amendment 115 in the nature of a substitute; H.R. 6018, Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2018 with the McCaul Amendment 109 in the nature of a substitute and the Meadows Amendment 165; H.R. 6413, the STOP Organ Trafficking Act with the Royce Amendment 143; and H.R. 6651—this is the PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018 with the Smith Amendment 113.

[The information referred to follows:]
Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine.

WHEREAS 2017–2018 marks the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor;

WHEREAS in 1932 and 1933, millions of Ukrainian people perished at the will of the totalitarian Stalinist government.
of the former Soviet Union, which perpetrated a premeditated famine in Ukraine in an effort to break the nation’s resistance to collectivization and communist occupation;

Whereas the Soviet Government deliberately confiscated grain harvests and starved millions of Ukrainian men, women, and children by a policy of forced collectivization that sought to destroy the nationally conscious movement for independence;

Whereas Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin ordered the borders of Ukraine sealed to prevent anyone from escaping the man-made starvation and to prevent the delivery of any international food aid that would provide relief to the starving;

Whereas numerous scholars worldwide have worked to uncover the scale of the famine, including Canadian wheat expert Andrew Cairns, who visited Ukraine in 1932 and was told that there was no grain “because the government had collected so much grain and exported it to England and Italy”, while Joseph Stalin simultaneously denied food aid to the people of Ukraine;

Whereas nearly a quarter of Ukraine’s rural population perished or were forced into exile due to the induced starvation, and the entire country suffered from the consequences of the prolonged famine;

Whereas noted correspondents of the time were refuted for their courage in depicting and reporting on the forced famine in Ukraine, including Gareth Jones, William Henry Chamberlin, and Malcolm Muggeridge, who wrote, “They (the peasants) will tell you that many have already died of famine and that many are dying every day; that
thousands have been shot by the government and hundreds of thousands exiled . . . ”

Whereas title V of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1986 (Public Law 99–180; 99 Stat. 1157), signed into law on December 13, 1985, established the Commission on the Ukraine Famine to “conduct a study of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933 in order to expand the world’s knowledge of the famine and provide the American public with a better understanding of the Soviet system by revealing the Soviet role” in it;

Whereas with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, archival documents became available that confirmed the deliberate and premeditated deadly nature of the famine, and that exposed the atrocities committed by the Soviet Government against the Ukrainian people;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who devoted his life to the development of legal concepts and norms for containing mass atrocities and whose tireless advocacy swayed the United Nations in 1948 to adopt the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, authored an essay in 1953 entitled “Soviet Genocide in [the] Ukraine”, which highlighted the “classic example of Soviet genocide”, characterizing it “not simply a case of mass murder[, but as] a case of genocide, of destruction, not of individuals only, but of a culture and a nation”;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine passed on November 28, 2006, a law numbered No: N 376–V, and entitled “About the 1932–1933 Holodomor in Ukraine”, giving official recognition to the Ukraine Famine as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people;
Whereas President George W. Bush signed into law Public Law 109-340 on October 13, 2006, authorizing the Government of Ukraine “to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932–1933”, which was officially dedicated in November 2015;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine and the Ukrainian communities in the United States and worldwide continue their efforts to secure greater international awareness and understanding of the 1932–1933 tragedy; and

Whereas victims of the Holodomor of 1932–1933 will be commemorated by Ukrainian communities around the globe, and in Ukraine, through November 2018: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) solemnly remembers the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932–1933 and extends its deepest sympathies to the victims, survivors, and families of this tragedy;

(2) condemns the systematic violations of human rights, including the freedom of self-determination and freedom of speech, of the Ukrainian people by the Soviet Government;

(3) recognizes the findings of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine as submitted to Congress on April 22, 1988, including that “Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against the Ukrainians in 1932–1933”;
(4) encourages dissemination of information regarding the Holodomor of 1932–1933 in order to expand the world’s knowledge of this manmade tragedy; and

(5) supports the continuing efforts of the people of Ukraine to work toward ensuring democratic principles, a free-market economy, and full respect for human rights, in order to enable Ukraine to achieve its potential as an important strategic partner of the United States in that region of the world, and to reflect the will of its people.
Condemning the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused, affirming support for the legitimate National Assembly and the Supreme Court, and urging further regional action in support of democracy in Venezuela.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2018

Mr. COOK (for himself, Mr. Sires, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, and Mr. Engel) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused, affirming support for the legitimate National Assembly and the Supreme Court, and urging further regional action in support of democracy in Venezuela.

Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela have systematically dismantled and destroyed democracy in Venezuela;

Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela are responsible for creating a humanitarian, economic, social, and political crisis in Venezuela that is unprecedented in the country’s history;
Whereas Nicolás Maduro has consistently refused to acknowledge Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis and has rejected humanitarian aid from the United States and the international community;

Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela have used food and humanitarian aid as a weapon for social control and have stolen funds from Local Food Production and Provision Committees, the Venezuelan distribution food aid program, according to a joint statement issued by Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and the United States on July 12, 2018;

Whereas Venezuela’s inflation rate has reached nearly 14,000 percent and is predicted to continue increasing, according to reports issued by the opposition-led National Assembly;

Whereas it is estimated that the Venezuelan Government owes about—

1. $64,000,000,000 to bondholders;
2. a total of $20,000,000,000 to China and Russia;
3. $5,000,000,000 to multilateral lenders; and
4. according to press reports, tens of billions to importers and service companies in the oil industry;

Whereas the capital city of Caracas has a per-capita homicide rate of 104 per 100,000 citizens, among the highest in the world, according to the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence;

Whereas, on June 20, 2018, the Pan-American Health Organization issued a report finding increases in new cases of malaria, measles, diphtheria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis in Venezuela;
Whereas, on June 22, 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report stating that “human rights violations committed during demonstrations form part of a wider pattern of repression against political dissidents and anyone perceived as posing a threat” to the government of Nicolás Maduro and referred the report to the International Criminal Court;

Whereas according to the Venezuelan human rights group Foro Penal, there are at least 254 political prisoners being held in Venezuela as of July 2018;

Whereas according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the deterioration of conditions in Venezuela has led to the emigration of at least 2,000,000 Venezuelans to neighboring countries, including Brazil, Chile, Caribbean island countries, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru;

Whereas the United States has provided at least $56,000,000 since fiscal year 2017 to countries in the Western Hemisphere, in response to the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the United States has imposed sanctions on—

(1) 59 Venezuelan officials, for human rights violations and corruption; and

(2) 22 individuals with connections to Venezuela and 27 Venezuelan entities, for drug trafficking;

Whereas Canada has sanctioned at least 70 Venezuelan officials for corruption or human rights abuses;

Whereas the European Union has sanctioned at least 18 Venezuelan officials for human rights violations and undermining democracy, including Vice President Delcy Rodríguez;
Whereas Switzerland has placed economic sanctions on at least 7 senior Venezuelan officials and multiple Venezuelan entities, for violations of individual freedoms and for severely undermining the separation of powers;

Whereas Panama has increased its financial oversight of at least 55 Venezuelans and 16 Venezuelan entities that the United States considered to be a high risk for money laundering;

Whereas Colombia, Panama, Mexico, and the United States have expanded cooperation to fight illegal financial networks that support the repressive government of Nicolás Maduro;

Whereas the United States, the Lima Group, the G-7, and European Union declared the national elections that occurred in Venezuela on May 20, 2018, were illegitimate;

Whereas the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) passed Resolution 1078 (2108/17) on April 3, 2017, expressing “grave concern regarding the unconstitutional alteration of the democratic order”;

Whereas Executive Order 13835 (83 Fed. Reg. 24001), signed on May 21, 2018, tightened existing sanctions that prohibit United States purchases of Venezuelan debt;

Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro expelled two senior United States diplomats from Caracas on May 22, 2018, and the United States responded reciprocally on May 23, 2018;

Whereas, on May 29, 2018, a panel of international experts designated by the Secretary General of the OAS found that “there are reasonable grounds that satisfy the
standard of proof required by Article 53 of the Rome Statute’’ that the Venezuelan people were subjected to “crimes against humanity”, and that as a result the situation in Venezuela should be referred to the International Criminal Court; and

Whereas, on June 5, 2018, the General Assembly of the OAS passed a resolution on Venezuela, with the support of 19 countries, reaffirming the “obligation of the governments [of the Americas] to promote and defend [democracy]” and declaring that the national elections that occurred on May 20, 2018, were illegitimate “for not complying with international standards, for not having met the participation of all Venezuelan political actors, and for being carried out without the necessary guarantees for a free, fair, transparent and democratic process”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused, affirms support for the legitimate National Assembly and the Supreme Court, and urges further regional action in support of democracy in Venezuela;

(2) applauds the efforts of the Lima Group and the countries that voted in favor of the Resolution on the Situation in Venezuela passed by the OAS General Assembly on June 5, 2018, and calls on countries that abstained from the vote or voted against the resolution to join the international com-
munity and the region in support of democracy in
Venezuela;

(3) supports the findings of the OAS panel of
experts, as presented on May 29, 2018, that there
are reasonable grounds to believe that the govern-
ment of Nicolás Maduro has committed crimes
against humanity and urges countries in the region
to take actions to support an investigation under
international law into crimes against humanity com-
mitted by that government;

(4) expresses concern over the continued hu-
manitarian crisis in Venezuela;

(5) urges countries in the region to coordinate
a regional humanitarian response and to work with
European, Asian, and African countries to coordi-
nate the imposition of sanctions and visa bans for
Venezuelan officials responsible for the ongoing cri-
is; and

(6) calls on the President to increase United
States support to the Venezuelan people by pro-
viding further humanitarian assistance in the region,
imposing additional targeted sanctions on Ven-
ezuelan officials, including under the Global
Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22
U.S.C. 2656 note), increasing public diplomacy ef-
forts to expose the levels of corruption among Ven-
ecuelan officials, and supporting democratic actors
in Venezuela.
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 1006
OFFERED BY MR. COOK OF CALIFORNIA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:
Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela have systematically dismantled and destroyed democracy in Venezuela;
Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela are responsible for creating a humanitarian, economic, social, and political crisis in Venezuela that is unprecedented in the country’s history;
Whereas Nicolás Maduro has consistently refused to acknowledge Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis and has rejected humanitarian aid from the United States and the international community;
Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela have used food and humanitarian aid as a weapon for social control and have stolen funds from Local Food Production and Provision Committees, the Venezuelan distribution food aid program, according to a joint statement issued by Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and the United States on July 12, 2018;
Whereas Venezuela’s inflation rate has reached nearly 14,000 percent and is predicted to continue increasing, according to reports issued by the opposition-led National Assembly;
Whereas it is estimated that the Venezuelan Government owes—

(1) $65,000,000,000 to bondholders;
(2) over $20,000,000,000 to China and Russia;
(3) over $5,000,000,000 to multilateral lenders;
and
(4) according to press reports, tens of billions of dollars to importers and service companies in the oil industry;

Whereas Venezuela has a per-capita homicide rate of 110 per 100,000 citizens, among the highest in the world, according to the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence;

Whereas on June 20, 2018, the Pan-American Health Organization issued a report finding increases in new cases of malaria, measles, diphtheria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis in Venezuela;

Whereas on June 22, 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report stating that "human rights violations committed during demonstrations form part of a wider pattern of repression against political dissidents and anyone perceived as posing a threat" to the government of Nicolás Maduro and referred the report to the International Criminal Court;

Whereas according to the Venezuelan human rights group Foro Penal, there are at least 253 political prisoners being held in Venezuela as of August 2018;

Whereas according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the deterioration of conditions in Venezuela has led to the emigration of at least 2,000,000 Venezuelans to neighboring countries, including Brazil, Chile,
Caribbean island countries, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru;

Whereas the United States has provided at least $70,000,000 since fiscal year 2017 to countries in the Western Hemisphere, in response to the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the United States has imposed sanctions on—

(1) 59 Venezuelan officials, for human rights violations and corruption; and

(2) 22 individuals with connections to Venezuela and 27 Venezuelan entities, for drug trafficking;

Whereas Canada has sanctioned at least 70 Venezuelan officials for corruption or human rights abuses;

Whereas the European Union has sanctioned at least 18 Venezuelan officials for human rights violations and undermining democracy, including Vice President Deley Rodriguez;

Whereas Switzerland has placed economic sanctions on at least 7 senior Venezuelan officials and multiple Venezuelan entities, for violations of individual freedoms and for severely undermining the separation of powers;

Whereas Panama has increased its financial oversight of at least 55 Venezuelans and 16 Venezuelan entities that the United States considered to be a high-risk for money laundering;

Whereas Colombia, Panama, Mexico, and the United States have expanded cooperation to fight illegal financial networks that support the repressive government of Nicolás Maduro;
Whereas the United States, the Lima Group, the G-7, and European Union declared the national elections that occurred in Venezuela on May 20, 2018, were illegitimate;

Whereas the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) passed Resolution 1078 (2108/17) on April 3, 2017, expressing “grave concern regarding the unconstitutional alteration of the democratic order”;

Whereas Executive Order 13835 (83 Fed. Reg. 24001), signed on May 21, 2018, tightened existing sanctions that prohibit United States purchases of Venezuelan debt;

Whereas the government of Nicolás Maduro expelled two senior United States diplomats from Caracas on May 22, 2018, and the United States responded reciprocally on May 23, 2018;

Whereas on May 29, 2018, a panel of international experts designated by the Secretary General of the OAS found that “there are reasonable grounds that satisfy the standard of proof required by Article 53 of the Rome Statute” that the Venezuelan people were subjected to “crimes against humanity”, and that as a result the situation in Venezuela should be referred to the International Criminal Court; and

Whereas on June 5, 2018, the General Assembly of the OAS passed a resolution on Venezuela, with the support of 19 countries, reaffirming the “obligation of the governments [of the Americas] to promote and defend [democracy]” and declaring that the national elections that occurred on May 20, 2018 were illegitimate “for not complying with international standards, for not having met the participa-
tion of all Venezuelan political actors, and for being carried out without the necessary guarantees for a free, fair, transparent and democratic process”:

Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused, affirms support for the legitimate National Assembly and the Supreme Court, and urges further regional action in support of democracy in Venezuela;

(2) applauds the efforts of the Lima Group and the countries that voted in favor of the Resolution on the Situation in Venezuela passed by the OAS General Assembly on June 5, 2018, and calls on countries that abstained from the vote or voted against the resolution to join the international community and the region in support of democracy in Venezuela;

(3) supports the findings of the OAS panel of experts, as presented on May 29, 2018, that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the government of Nicolás Maduro has committed crimes
against humanity and urges countries in the region to take actions to support an investigation under international law into crimes against humanity committed by that government;

(4) expresses concern over the continued humanitarian crisis in Venezuela;

(5) urges countries in the region to coordinate a regional humanitarian response and to work with European, Asian, and African countries to coordinate the imposition of sanctions and visa bans for Venezuelan officials responsible for the ongoing crisis; and

(6) calls on the President to increase United States support to the Venezuelan people by providing further humanitarian assistance in the region, imposing additional targeted sanctions on Venezuelan officials, including under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note), increasing public diplomacy efforts to expose the levels of corruption among Venezuelan officials, and supporting democratic actors in Venezuela.
AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H. RES. 1006
OFFERED BY MR. SIRES OF NEW JERSEY

After the 10th preamble clause, insert the following:

Whereas Nicolás Maduro used an alleged assassination attempt in August 2018 as an opportunity to further crack down on his opposition and arbitrarily detained several Venezuelan National Assembly members, including Juan Requesnas;

In the 12th preamble clause, strike “$70,000,000” and insert “$118,000,000”.

In paragraph (1) of the 13th preamble clause, strike “59” and insert “63”.  

☒
115TH CONGRESS 2d Session

H. RES. 1052

Affirming United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 6, 2018

Mr. Castro of Texas (for himself, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Gallagher) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Affirming United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization.

Whereas the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Australia are treaty allies;

Whereas United States and Australia defense cooperation extends back 100 years, to the Battle of Hamel in World War I;

Whereas the Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty, also referred to as the ANZUS Treaty, has formed the framework of the United States-Australia alliance since 1951;

Whereas the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultation, also referred to as AUSMIN, has contributed to a deeper partnership between the two nations;
Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) notes that, “The United States and Australia have been cooperating in civil space for more than 50 years”;

Whereas the United States Apollo missions and subsequent space science and exploration conducted by the United States benefitted greatly from the partnership with our Australian allies;

Whereas Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the surface of the Moon were relayed to Houston through the Honeysuckle Creek site in Australia;

Whereas NASA also notes that, “The Canberra complex is an integral component of NASA’s Deep Space Network (DSN), the world’s largest and most sensitive scientific telecommunications system”;

Whereas the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC) is one of NASA’s largest tracking and communication facilities outside the United States;

Whereas, on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, Australian Ambassador to the United States Joe Hockey and Acting NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot signed a 25-year agreement for continued cooperation on space cooperation, including on space tracking;

Whereas the United States and Australian governments have jointly committed to expanding Space Situational Awareness (SSA);

Whereas United States-Australia cooperation on SSA is critical to maximize defense capabilities, monitoring environmental changes, avoiding space congestion and collisions, and protecting against exploitation from the growing counter-space capabilities of our adversaries;
Whereas, on September 24, 2017, the Government of Australia under Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull committed to creating the Australian Space Agency, with operations beginning on July 1, 2018; and

Whereas the Australian Space Agency commenced operations on July 1, 2018: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Australian Government in constituting the Australian Space Agency;

(2) recognizes the value in United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization, including on terrestrial research, commercial activities, and human and robotic space exploration;

(3) supports international cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization and other forms of space diplomacy as being in the national interest of the United States;

(4) encourages the Department of State to support and facilitate international cooperation with Australia on space research, exploration, and utilization through diplomatic efforts, including through the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) forum and multilateral initiatives with Japan, Canada, the European Union, and other
partners of both the United States and Australia; and

(5) supports deeper cooperation with our Australian allies in contributing each country’s unique strengths and resources to mutual prosperity and security.
H. RES. 1055

To affirm strong United States-Liberia ties and support for democratic principles, and call for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 7, 2018

Mr. DONOVAN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

To affirm strong United States-Liberia ties and support for democratic principles, and call for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia.

Whereas today the United States is home to an estimated 80,000 people of Liberian ancestry in vibrant communities across the country, who have been instrumental in America’s efforts to build a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Liberia;

Whereas Liberia and the United States share close historical, political, and economic ties over the course of a nearly 200-year relationship;
Whereas the people and Government of the United States have a deep interest in Liberia’s democratic stability and postconflict development;

Whereas the civil war from 1991 to 2002 resulted in the death of over 200,000 people in Sierra Leone and Liberia, the displacement of over 1,000,000 persons, and the horrific cases of amputations, mass rape, and human rights abuses conducted under the leadership of Charles Taylor;

Whereas Charles Taylor was convicted through the Special Court for Sierra Leone for 11 different charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, such as rape, sexual abuse, and slavery, and violation of international law, including the use of child soldiers;

Whereas a comprehensive peace agreement was signed by the Government of Liberia, rebel groups, and political parties in 2003;

Whereas the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as established under the 2003 comprehensive peace agreement, was formally created in 2005 with a mandate “to promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation by investigating gross human rights violations and violations of humanitarian law, sexual violations, and economic crimes that occurred between January 1979 and October 2003”;

Whereas the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released a report in December 2008 recommending the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia and listed individuals, corporations, and institutions recommended for further investigation and prosecution, among other recommendations;
Whereas the Government of Liberia has not fully implemented the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Agreement to date, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal;

Whereas Liberia experienced its first democratic and peaceful transition of power since 1944 after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf respected constitutional term limits and George Weah defeated Vice President Joseph Boakai following a runoff during the 2017 Presidential elections;

Whereas the United States congratulated the people of Liberia on the successful conclusion of the Presidential runoff election and recognized the important role Liberia’s Supreme Court, political parties, security forces, and civil society organizations played in holding a peaceful and transparent contest; and

Whereas the United States Government and American citizens have invested in Liberia to rebuild and support democratic institutions, postconflict recovery, economic growth, improved access to education and health care, professionalization of the country’s military and civilian security forces, and efforts to foster accountability and transparency of government institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

1. (1) upholds its commitment to maintain and foster the enduring relationship between the people and the Governments of the United States and Liberia;

2. (2) urges the Government and people of Liberia to support the truth and reconciliation process
through full implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal; and

(3) supports efforts by the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development to advance Liberian efforts toward national reconciliation through continued support for the rule of law, effective governance, and the robust role of civil society.
H.R. 1567

115th Congress 1st Session

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2017

Mr. Cuellar introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A BILL

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

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

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act”.

4 SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

5 The purpose of this Act is to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the areas of academic exchange, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure integration.
SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES-MEXICO ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United States to increase United States-Mexico academic exchanges at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels.

(b) PRIORITY.—The exchanges described in subsection (a) should be across the United States and Mexico, however, priority should be given to strengthening ties between communities and academic institutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the exchanges described in subsection (a) should reflect the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative; and

(2) the United States and Mexico should seek to contribute to doubling the number of students studying in each other’s country by not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED STATES-MEXICO ENTREPRENEURSHIP COOPERATION, TRAINING, AND MENTORING PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a plan to implement policies and programs that support cooperation, training, and mentoring of entrepreneurs.
(b) ELEMENTS.—The policies and programs described in subsection (a) shall seek to create innovation through United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses assisting prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthen their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on the covered United States-Mexico border region.

(c) MATCHING FUNDS.—The policies and programs described in subsection (a) should seek to ensure United States Government funds are, at a minimum, matched by private sector funds for purposes of carrying out such policies and programs.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the policies and programs described in subsection (a) should reflect the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative and should seek to provide not less than 100 grants of not more than $25,000 each for participants in such programs to better leverage participation by the private sector.

(e) REPORT.—The President shall submit to Congress a report on the plan described in subsection (a) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 5. UNITED STATES-MEXICO ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION PROGRAMS.

(a) In General.—The President shall develop a plan to implement policies and programs that promote United States-Mexico energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the two countries, particularly in the region in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in proximity to such region.

(b) Elements.—The policies and programs described in subsection (a) shall seek to develop skills related to safe and responsible energy extraction and other innovative energy technologies that can be provided by educational institutions located in the region described in subsection (a) or in proximity to such region, including by seeking to provide such skills to individuals in Mexico who are seeking vocational level jobs in Mexico’s energy sector.

(c) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that the policies and programs described in subsection (a) should seek to provide education, internships, and exchanges for at least 1,000 participants.

(d) Report.—The President shall submit to Congress a report on the plan described in subsection (a) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 6. MEDICAL SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—The President shall develop a plan, in coordination with the private sector and non-profit organizations, to implement a pilot program to develop a pipeline between undergraduate colleges and universities in the United States and medical school programs in Mexico. The pilot program should be utilized to prepare medical students to become doctors who can pass medical licensing board exams in the United States.

(b) Elements.—The pilot program described in subsection (a) shall seek to ensure that medical school programs in Mexico shall have comparable accreditation standards as medical school programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education as well as registered in the International Medical Education Directory.

(c) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that the pilot program described in subsection (a) should seek to increase the number of bilingual medical professionals in a cost-effective manner who can practice in United States under-served communities.

(d) Report.—The President shall submit to Congress a report on the plan described in subsection (a) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative” means the initiative established in March 2011 by the United States Government to increase educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

(2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico border region” means those portions of the United States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between those countries.
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1567
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States and Mexico have benefitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

(2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy reforms that opened its energy sector to private investment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico and the United States and opening new opportunities for United States energy engagement.

(3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State stated, “Our exchange programs build enduring relationships and
networks to advance U.S. national interests and foreign policy goals. The role of our exchanges in advancing U.S. national security and economic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong return on investment.”.

(4) According to the Institute of International Education, in the 2015-2016 academic year, more than 56,000 United States students studied in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region while more than 84,000 non-United States students from the region studied in the United States, but only 5,000 of those United States students studied in Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States students were from Mexico.

(5) In March 2011, the United States launched the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which seeks to increase educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.
(6) In January 2014, the United States established the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facilitating a public-private partnership between the Department of State and nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and universities in the United States and other countries of the Western Hemisphere region.

(7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100 grants to more than 250 higher education institutions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere region, and has raised $9,000,000 in investments, 75 percent of which was from corporations, foundations, and regional governments.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue deepening economic cooperation between the United States and Mexico; and

(2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.
SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) encourage more academic exchanges between the United States and Mexico at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, especially with communities and through academic institutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(3) promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level
education, internships, and exchanges between the
United States and Mexico, particularly in the region
in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in
proximity to such region; and
(4) assess the feasibility of fostering partner-
ships between universities in the United States and
medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to
ensure that medical school and nursing programs in
Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as
medical school and nursing programs in the United
States by the Accreditation and Standards in For-
eign Medical Education, in addition to the Accred-
tation Commission For Education in Nursing, so
that medical students can pass medical licensing
board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing
licensing exams, in the United States.
(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
submit to Congress a report on the strategy required
under subsection (a).
SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.
In this Act:
(1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-
TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas
Initiative” means the initiative established in March
2011 by the United States Government to increase educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

(2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico border region” means those portions of the United States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between those countries.
115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  
H. R. 4591

To impose sanctions with respect to Iranian persons that threaten the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2017

Mr. KEAN (for himself, Mr. STUOZZI, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. NUNES, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To impose sanctions with respect to Iranian persons that threaten the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Iranian Destabilization of Iraq Act of 2017”.

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 “Preventing Iranian De-

5  stabilization of Iraq Act of 2017”.
SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to impose sanctions with respect to terrorist organizations and foreign countries, including the Government of Iran, that threaten the peace or stability and impede the democratic processes of Iraq or the Government of Iraq.

SEC. 3. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRANIAN PERSONS THREATENING PEACE OR STABILITY IN IRAQ.

(a) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State should continue to implement Executive Order 13438 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons who threaten stabilization efforts in Iraq).

(b) Imposition of Sanctions.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c)(1)(A) and the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c)(1)(B) with respect to any Iranian person that the President, acting through the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries), as the case may be, determines—
(1) to have knowingly committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, an act or acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of—

(A) threatening the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq;

(B) undermining or attempting to undermine, co-opt, or confound the democratic process in Iraq; or

(C) undermining efforts to promote economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq or to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people;

(2) has knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, any activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1); or

(3) is owned or controlled by, or has acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, a foreign person that has carried out any activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2).

(e) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:
(A) Asset blocking.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of an entity determined by the President to be subject to subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) Aliens ineligible for visas, admission, or parole.—

(i) Visas, admission, or parole.—
An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows or has reasonable grounds to believe meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b) is—

(1) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and
(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any visa or other documentation issued to an alien who is an Iranian person on the list required under subsection (b), regardless of when such visa or other documentation was issued, shall be revoked and such alien shall be denied admission to the United States.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—
A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession.

(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for pur-
poses of the imposition of sanctions under this section.

(3) **Penalties.**—A person that is subject to sanctions described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(4) **Exception to Comply with United Nations Headquarters Agreement.**—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(d) **Waiver.**—The President may, on a case-by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 90 days, waive the application of sanctions in this section with respect to an Iranian person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees at least 15 days before such
waiver is to take effect that such waiver is vital to the
national security interests of the United States.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—The President
may exercise all authorities provided to the President
under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
for purposes of carrying out this section.

(f) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not
later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for
the implementation of this section.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less
than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations
under paragraph (1), the President shall notify and
provide to the appropriate congressional committees
the proposed regulations and the provisions of this
section that the regulations are implementing.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

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

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on
Ways and Means, and the Committee on Finan-
(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) IRANIAN PERSON.—The term “Iranian person” means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of Iran; and

(B) an entity organized under the laws of Iran or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of Iran.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” has the meaning given that term in section 576.317 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(4) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(3)).

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.
(6) GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ.—The term “Government of Iraq” has the meaning given that term in section 576.310 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(7) PERSON.—The term “person” has the meaning given that term in section 576.311 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(8) PROPERTY; PROPERTY INTEREST.—The terms “property” and “property interest” have the meanings given those terms in section 576.312 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(h) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective beginning on January 1, 2022.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IN IRAQ.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed 5 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on activities of the Government of Iran in Iraq.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a description of the following:
(1) The Government of Iran’s support for Iraqi
militias or political parties, including weapons, fi-
nancing, and other forms of material support.

(2) A list of referrals to the relevant United
Nations Security Council sanctions committees by
the United States Permanent Representative to the
United Nations.

(3) Iranian persons that are in Iraq despite the
asset freeze and visa ban sanctions imposed against
such entities pursuant to United Nations Security
Council Resolution 2231.

(4) Iraqi persons that have aided, abetted, or
facilitated the Government of Iran’s transport of
personnel, money, and munitions into Syria to aid
the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

(5) Iraqi financial institutions that are pro-
viding credit, loans, or other assistance to Govern-
ment of Iran-backed irregular or militia forces re-
ponsible for engaging in activities described in sec-
tion 3(b).

(6) Actions taken by the Government of Iran to
influence Shia institutions in Najaf, Iraq.

(c) Form.—The report required by subsection (a)
shall be submitted in classified form if it is determined
that it is necessary for the national security interests of the United States to do so.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4591
OFFERED BY MR. KINZINGER OF ILLINOIS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
2 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act of 2018”.

4 SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THREATENING PEACE OR STABILITY IN IRAQ.
5
6 (a) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State should continue to implement Executive Order 13438 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons who threaten stabilization efforts in Iraq).
7
8 (b) Imposition of Sanctions.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to any foreign person that the President determines knowingly commits a significant act of violence that has the direct purpose or effect of—
2
(1) threatening the peace or stability of Iraq or
the Government of Iraq;
(2) undermining the democratic process in Iraq;
or
(3) undermining significantly efforts to promote
economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq
or to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi
people.

(e) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in
this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all
powers granted to the President by the Inter-
national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to
block and prohibit all transactions in all prop-
erty and interests in property of a foreign per-
son determined by the President to be subject
to subsection (b) if such property and interests
in property are in the United States, come
within the United States, or arc or come within
the possession or control of a United States
person.

(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, AD-
MISSION, OR PAROLE.—
(i) **Visas, Admission, or Parole.**—

An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows or has reasonable grounds to believe meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) **Current Visas Revoked.**—

(I) **In General.**—Any visa or other documentation issued to an alien who is a foreign person that is described in subsection (b) regardless of when such visa or other documentation was issued, shall be re-
voked and such alien shall be denied admission to the United States.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—

A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that is subject to sanctions described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.
5

(d) WAIVER.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 90 days, waive the application of sanctions in this section with respect to a foreign person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees at least 15 days before such waiver is to take effect that such waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of carrying out this section.

(f) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this section.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations under paragraph (1), the President shall notify and provide to the appropriate congressional committees the proposed regulations and the provisions of this section that the regulations are implementing.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(3)).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means a person that is not a United States person.

(4) GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ.—The term “Government of Iraq” has the meaning given that term in section 576.310 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should
have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(6) PERSON.—The term “person” has the meaning given that term in section 576.311 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(7) PROPERTY; PROPERTY INTEREST.—The terms “property” and “property interest” have the meanings given those terms in section 576.312 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(8) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” has the meaning given that term in section 576.317 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 22, 2016.

(h) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective beginning on January 1, 2022.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a determination, including a detailed justification, on whether Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Harakat Hizballah al-Nujaba, or any foreign person that is an official, agent,
affiliate of, or owned or controlled by Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq
or Harakat Hizballah al-Nujaba meets the criteria for—

(1) designation as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

(2) the application of sanctions pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism); or

(3) the application of sanctions pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

(b) FORM.—The determination in subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Com-
mittee on Intelligence, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

**SEC. 4. WATCHLISTS.**

(a) In General.—The Secretary of State shall annually establish, maintain, and publish a list of armed groups, militias, or proxy forces in Iraq receiving logistical, military, or financial assistance from Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps or over which Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps exerts any form of control or influence.

(b) Publication.—The lists required under subsection (a) shall be published at the same time as the Department of State’s Annual Country Reports on Terrorism, beginning with the first such Country Reports published after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Form.—If the Secretary of State determines that it is appropriate to do so, the Secretary may, not later than 30 days after publication of the Annual Country Reports on Terrorism referred to in subsection (b), submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a classified annex.
AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4591
OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Page 8, after line 12, insert the following:

(b) ADDITIONAL DETERMINATION.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall include in the determination submitted under subsection (a) an additional determination, including a detailed justification, on whether any of the individuals described in paragraph (2) meet the criteria for the application of sanctions described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a).

(2) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—The individuals described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Qais al-Khazali.
(B) Laith al-Khazali.
(C) Akram Abbas al-Kaabi.
(D) Shibli al-Zaydi.
(E) Kazim al-Ta’i.
(F) Hamid al-Jazairi.
(G) Ali al-Yasiri.

Page 8, line 13, strike “(b)” and insert “(c)”.

Page 8, line 13, insert “and the additional determination in subsection (b)” before “shall”.

☒
AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4591
OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 5, line 2, strike “90 days” and insert “180
days”.

Page 7, line 25, strike “or” and insert “Liwa
Fatemiyoum, Liwa Zainebiyoun, and”.

Page 8, line 2, strike “or” and insert a comma.

Page 8, line 2, after “Nujaba,” insert “Liwa
Fatemiyoum, or Liwa Zainebiyoun”.

×
115TH CONGRESS
2d Session

H.R. 5273

To reduce global fragility and violence by improving the capacity of the United States to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in pilot countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2018

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. McCaul, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. COOK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reduce global fragility and violence by improving the capacity of the United States to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in pilot countries, 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,
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4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “Global Fragility and
6 Violence Reduction Act of 2018”.
7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
8 Congress finds the following:
(1) According to the United Nations, an unprecedented 66 million people around the world are currently forcibly displaced from their homes. This is the highest level of global displacement ever recorded.

(2) According to the World Bank, violence and violent conflict, rather than natural disasters, are now the leading causes of displacement worldwide, driving 80 percent of humanitarian needs. The Bank also notes that the same conflicts have accounted for the majority of forcibly displaced persons every year since 1991.

(3) According to the World Health Organization, preventable forms of violence kill at least 1.4 million people each year and cause debilitating physical and mental harm to many others.

(4) According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, violence containment costs the global economy $14.3 trillion a year, or 13.4 percent of the world’s GDP. If violence were to decrease uniformly across the world by just 10 percent, the global economy would gain $1.43 trillion each year.

(5) Violence and violent conflict underpin many of the United States Government’s key national security challenges. Notably, violent conflicts allow for
environments in which terrorist organizations recruit
and thrive, while the combination of violence, cor-
ruption, poverty, poor governance, and underdevelop-
ment often enables transnational gangs and criminal
networks to wreak havoc and commit atrocities
worldwide.

(6) According to new research by the University
of Maryland and University of Pittsburgh, exposure
to violence increases support for violence and violent
extremism. Research increasingly finds exposure to
violence as a predictor of future participation in vio-
ulence, including violent extremism.

(7) Since 2002, a body of research has emerged
on failed or fragile states. The World Bank defines
a fragile state as a low-income country characterized
by weak state capacity, weak state legitimacy, or
both, leaving citizens vulnerable to a range of
shocks.

(8) United States foreign policy and assistance
efforts in highly violent and fragile states remain
governed by an outdated patchwork of authorities
that prioritize responding to immediate needs rather
than solving the problems that cause them. United
States Ambassadors, United States Agency for
International Development (USAID) Mission Direc-
tors, and commanders of combatant commands do not have the policy framework or tools they need to align United States policy or assistance with an overarching, long-term strategy to reduce and prevent global fragility and violence.

(9) Lessons learned over the past 20 years, documented by the 2013 Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Lessons Learned Study and the 2016 Fragility Study Group report, show that effective, sustained United States efforts to reduce violence and stabilize fragile and violence-affected states require clearly defined goals and strategies, adequate long-term funding, rigorous and iterative conflict analysis, coordination across the United States Government, including strong civil-military coordination, and integration with national and sub-national partners, including local civil society organizations, local justice systems, and local governance structures.

(10) United States National Security Strategies over the past 15 years have regularly affirmed that the United States has a national security interest in improving its capacity to prevent, manage, and mitigate violence and violent conflicts in order to mitigate the consequences of armed conflict, including
humanitarian disasters, terrorism, organized crime, increased risk of mass atrocities, and reversed development.

(11) According to the Small Arms Survey, the extent to which the international community will be able to bring down global levels of violence will depend largely on the actions taken by states to implement more tangible multilateral commitments to improve governance, promote inclusive development, and protect human rights, among other things.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) ensure that all relevant United States Government departments and agencies coordinate to achieve coherent, long-term goals for programs designed to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in fragile and violence-affected countries, including when implementing the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Initiative described in section 4;

(2) seek to improve the global, regional, and local coordination of relevant international and multilateral development and donor organizations regarding efforts to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in fragile and
violence-affected countries, and, where possible, align
such efforts with multilateral goals and indicators;

(3) expand and enhance the effectiveness of for-

4 eign assistance programs and activities that reduce
and address the causes of violence, violent conflict,
and fragility in fragile and violence-affected coun-
tries, including programs intended to improve the in-
dicators described in section 4(g);

(4) support the research and development of ef-
fective approaches to reduce and address the causes
of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in fragile
and violence-affected countries; and

(5) improve the monitoring, evaluation, learn-
ing, and adaptation tools and authorities for relevant
United States Government departments and agen-
cies working to reduce and address the causes of vio-

lence, violent conflict, and fragility in fragile and vio-

lence-affected countries.

SEC. 4. GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE FRAGILITY AND VI-

OLENCE.

(a) INITIATIVE.—The Administrator of the United
States Agency for International Development (USAID), in
coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of
Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies
and departments, shall establish an interagency initiative
to be referred to as the “Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence” relating to reducing and addressing the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility, with a focus on ten pilot countries.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of USAID, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and departments, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an initial interagency strategy for implementing the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence required under subsection (a), including the following:

(1) Descriptions of the organizational steps each relevant Federal agency or department will take to improve strategic planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and coordination among and within such agencies and departments under such initiative.

(2) Descriptions of the initial goals, objectives, and role of each relevant Federal agency or department under such initiative.

(3) Descriptions of the steps each relevant Federal agency or department will take to improve coordination and collaboration with international develop-
opment organizations, international donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector under such initiative.

(4) Descriptions of potential areas of improved public and private sector research and development, including from academic, philanthropic, and civil society organizations, on more effective approaches to reducing and preventing the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in fragile and violence-affected countries.

(5) Plans for regularly evaluating and updating on an iterative basis the information described in this subsection.

(c) INDIVIDUAL PILOT COUNTRY PLANS.—The strategy required under subsection (b) shall contain an annex identifying the ten pilot countries designated pursuant to subsection (d), and for each such pilot country contain a mission-led, 10-year pilot country plan establishing initial goals, objectives, and plans of action for United States Government activities, including development, security, and other assistance activities that are relevant to reducing and addressing the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility, including the following:

(1) Interagency plans for coordination and implementation that define the appropriate role of each
relevant Federal agency or department and processes for coordinating among and within such agencies and departments when carrying out each such pilot country plan.

(2) Interagency plans to ensure appropriate local actors, including governance and civil society entities, and organizations led by women, youth, and under-represented communities have roles in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and updating relevant aspects of each such pilot country plan.

(3) Clear, transparent, and measurable initial political, diplomatic, security, and developmental benchmarks, timetables, and performance metrics for each such pilot country, with a focus on outcome metrics, including such metrics that capture grievances and patterns that cause violence and, where applicable, align with best practice indicators determined by Sustainable Development Goal #16 and the OECD Development Assistance Committee’s Fragility Framework.

(4) Interagency plans for monitoring and evaluation, adaptive management, and iterative learning that provide for regular and iterative policy and program adaptations based on monitoring and evalu-
tion findings and other evidence generated in each such pilot country and across such pilot countries.

(5) Descriptions of the available policy tools to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in each such pilot country.

(6) Descriptions of the resources and authorities that would be required for each relevant Federal agency or department to best implement each such pilot country plan, as well as evidence-based iterative updates to such plans.

(7) Descriptions of potential areas of improved partnership between the United States Government and international development organizations, relevant international donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector regarding efforts to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in each such pilot country.

(8) Plans for regularly evaluating and updating on an iterative basis the plans described in this subsection.

(d) PILOT COUNTRY DESIGNATION.—The Administrator of USAID, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out the following actions:
(1) Develop the list of candidate countries under consideration for the initiative required under this section on the basis of the following:

(A) Current levels of violence, violent conflict, and fragility, as determined by empirical data, such as the following, to the extent such data are available:

(i) Total levels of deaths due to violence and violence-related deaths per 100,000 population in the candidate country under consideration.

(ii) Total levels of violent injuries and violence exposure levels in such country.

(iii) Violent injuries and violence exposure levels per 100,000 population in such country.

(iv) Levels of persons forcibly displaced, whether internally or internationally, due to violence or violent conflict in such country.

(v) Total levels of gender-based violence and violence against children and youth in such country.
(vi) Prevalence of physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months in such country.

(vii) Levels of mortality due to armed group violence in such country.

(viii) Levels of citizen support for armed groups in such country.

(ix) Such country’s ranking on select global fragility lists and select good governance indexes.

(x) Such country’s ranking on select United States Government conflict and atrocity early warning watch lists.

(xi) Such country’s vulnerability to current or future transnational threats.

(B) An assessment of the potential for United States Government activities to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in each candidate country under consideration, including the capacity and commitment of relevant entities within each such country to participate in the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence under this section.
(2) Organize such candidate countries under consideration into the categories of “Core Country” and “Prevention Country” such that—

(A) a candidate country shall be a Core Country for purposes of pilot country selection where current levels of violence, violent conflict, and fragility are highest in the world, as determined by the data specified in paragraph (1); and

(B) a candidate country shall be a Prevention Country for purposes of pilot country selection where current levels of violence, violent conflict, and fragility are lower than such levels in a Core Country, as determined by the data specified in paragraph (1), but warning signs for future violence, violent conflict, and fragility are significant and strategic prevention efforts are likely to make a meaningful difference in mitigating or preventing future violence, violent conflict, and fragility.

(3) Designate, on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraph (1), 10 pilot countries, organized with not fewer than three countries in each of the Core and Prevention categories described in paragraph (2) and not more than four countries in each
geographic region, as determined by the Department of State.

(4) Consider when making designations pursuant to paragraph (3) designating multiple countries in the same region if the drivers of violence, violent conflict, and fragility are transnational in such region.

(e) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—In addition to the individuals specified in subsection (a), the initiative required under this section shall be developed in coordination with—

(1) the United States Ambassador, USAID Mission Director, geographic Combatant Commands, and relevant inter-agency country teams in each applicable country; and

(2) representatives of local civil society and national and local governance entities, as well as relevant international development organizations, multilateral organizations, donors, and relevant private, academic, and philanthropic entities, as appropriate.

(f) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.—The Administrator of USAID, in coordination with the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense (or their respective designees), shall provide briefings to the appropriate congressional committees not later than—
(1) 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act regarding the countries selected as pilot countries for the initiative required under this section;

(2) 90 days after such date of enactment regarding progress on the individual pilot country plans under subsection (c); and

(3) 30 days after submission of such initiative regarding plans for implementing such initiative and such individual pilot country plans.

(g) Measuring Violence, Violent Conflict, and Fragility.—For the purposes of implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of the individual pilot country plans required under subsection (c), progress towards reducing and addressing the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility shall be measured by indicators established for each such pilot country by relevant inter-agency country teams in each such pilot country, informed by consultations with the stakeholders specified in subsection (e)(2). Such indicators shall be based on the data described in subsection (d)(1)(A), as appropriate, and updated regularly to account for any improvements in the available indicators and to include indicators for additional priority areas, such as:
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(1) Improving inclusive, transparent, and ac-
2 countable power structures, including effective, le-
3 gitimate, and resilient national and sub-national in-
4 stitutions.
(2) Improving effective and respected conflict
5 prevention, mitigation, management, and resolution
6 mechanisms.
(3) Reducing levels of citizen support for vio-
7 lence, violent extremism, and adversarial armed
8 groups.
(4) Ensuring strong foundations for plurality,
9 non-discrimination, human rights, rule of law, and
10 equal access to justice.
(5) Addressing political, social, economic, and
12 environmental vulnerabilities, grievances, and con-
13 flicts.
(6) Ensuring inclusive economic development
15 and enabling business environments.
(7) Improving resilience to transnational
19 stresses and shocks, including from organized crime
21 and violent extremist organizations.

SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION AND UPDATES OF PILOT COUN-
TRY PLANS.

The Administrator of the United States Agency for
International Development (USAID), the Secretary of
State, the Secretary of Defense, the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and departments, relevant United States Ambassadors, USAID Mission Directors, and other relevant individuals with responsibility over activities in each pilot country designated pursuant to section 4 shall ensure that—

(1) the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence and each individual pilot country plan required under such section are implemented and updated on a regular and iterative basis;

(2) such initiative and individual pilot country plans are used to guide United States Government policy at a senior level and are incorporated into relevant strategies and plans across the United States Government and in each such pilot country;

(3) detailed and iterative goals, objectives, and plans of action are developed, implemented, updated, and coordinated among and within each relevant Federal agency or department for the duration of each such individual pilot country plan;

(4) resources for all relevant activities in each such pilot country are requested and utilized consistent with such initiative and individual pilot country plans; and
(5) the results of program monitoring and evaluation under such initiative and individual pilot country plans are regularly reviewed and utilized to determine continuation, modification, or termination of future year programming and that regular and iterative policy and program adaptations are made to each such plan.

SEC. 6. BIENNIAL REPORTS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.

(a) Biennial Reports.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act and every two years thereafter until full implementation of the 10-year individual pilot country plans required under section 4, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and departments, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made and lessons learned with respect to the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence and each individual pilot country plan required under section 4, including—

(1) descriptions of steps taken to incorporate such initiative and such individual pilot country
plans into relevant strategies and plans that affect such pilot countries;

(2) accountings of all funding received and obligated to implement each such individual pilot country plan during the past two years, as well as funding requested, planned, and projected for the following two years;

(3) descriptions of progress made towards the goals and objectives established for each such individual pilot country, including progress made towards achieving the specific targets, metrics, and indicators described in section 4; and

(4) descriptions of updates made during the past two years to the goals, objectives, plans of action, and other elements described in section 4(c) for each such individual pilot country plan, as well as any changes made to programs based on the results of monitoring and evaluation in accordance with sections 4 and 5.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.—The Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and departments shall jointly consult with the appropriate congressional committees not less often than annually regarding progress made on the initiative and indi-
The consultation requirement under this subsection shall terminate upon full implementation of the 10-year individual pilot country plans required under such section.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE GLOBAL FRAGILITY AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE.

It is the sense of Congress that the President, together with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and departments, should—

(1) support the creation of a “Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Fund” to help support USAID and Department of State activities under the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Initiative and individual pilot country plans required under section 4;

(2) work with Congress to provide funding that allows for more adaptive program planning and implementation under such initiative and individual pilot country plans, including through exemptions from specific and minimum funding levels when such exemptions would make programs better able to re-
spend to monitoring and evaluation or changed circumstances in relevant countries;

(3) work with Congress to provide funding that better integrates conflict and violence reduction activities into other program areas where appropriate;
and

(4) support the creation of a multilateral fund and other international initiatives to improve global public and private support for coordinating and funding efforts to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility.

SEC. 8. GAO REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an independent review of all United States Government activities in each pilot country designated pursuant to section 4.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The review required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the extent to which United States Government activities in each pilot country designated pursuant to section 4 are being implemented in accordance with the relevant individual pilot country plan required under such section.
(2) Descriptions of all activities that are being implemented in accordance with each such individual pilot country plan, including, with respect to each such activity, the role of each relevant Federal agency or department, the entities responsible for implementation, and the funding level.

(3) Assessments of the processes and procedures for coordinating among and within each relevant Federal agency or department when implementing each such individual pilot country plan.

(4) Assessments of the monitoring and evaluation efforts under each such individual pilot country plan, including assessments of the progress made and lessons learned with respect to each such plan, as well as any changes made to activities based on the results of such monitoring and evaluation.

(5) Recommendations for changes necessary to better implement United States Government activities in accordance with such individual pilot country plans, as well as recommendations for any changes to such plans.

SEC. 9. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—
(1) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5273
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Fragility and
3 Violence Reduction Act of 2018”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
5 Congress finds the following:
6 (1) According to the United Nations, an un-
7 precedented 68.5 million people around the world,
8 the highest level ever recorded, are currently forcibly
9 displaced from their homes.

(2) According to the World Bank, violence and
10 violent conflict are now the leading causes of dis-
11 placement and food insecurity worldwide, driving 80
12 percent of humanitarian needs, with the same con-
13 flicts accounting for the majority of forcibly dis-
14 placed persons every year since 1991.

(3) According to the World Health Organiza-
16 tion, preventable forms of violence kill at least 1.4
17 million people each year. According to the Institute
for Economics and Peace, violence containment costs the global economy $14.76 trillion a year, or 12.4 percent of the world’s GDP. If violence were to decrease uniformly across the world by just 10 percent, the global economy would gain $1.48 trillion each year.

(4) Violence and violent conflict underpin many of the United States Government’s key national security challenges. Notably, violent conflicts allow for environments in which terrorist organizations recruit and thrive, while the combination of violence, corruption, poverty, poor governance, and underdevelopment often enables transnational gangs and criminal networks to wreak havoc and commit atrocities worldwide.

(5) According to new research by the University of Maryland and University of Pittsburgh, exposure to violence increases support for violence and violent extremism. Research increasingly finds exposure to violence as a predictor of future participation in violence, including violent extremism.

(6) United States foreign policy and assistance efforts in highly violent and fragile states remain governed by an outdated patchwork of authorities
that prioritize responding to immediate needs rather than solving the problems that cause them.

(7) Lessons learned over the past 20 years, documented by the 2013 Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Lessons Learned Study, the 2016 Fragility Study Group report, and the 2018 Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Lessons Learned Study on Stabilization, show that effective, sustained United States efforts to reduce violence and stabilize fragile and violence-affected states require clearly defined goals and strategies, adequate long-term funding, rigorous and iterative conflict analysis, coordination across the United States Government, including strong civil-military coordination, and integration with national and sub-national partners, including local civil society organizations, local justice systems, and local governance structures.

(8) The “Stabilization Assistance Review” released in 2018 by the Departments of State and Defense and the United States Agency for International Development states, “The United States has strong national security and economic interests in reducing levels of violence and promoting stability in areas affected by armed conflict.” The Review further states, “Stabilization is an inherently polit-
ich endeavor that requires aligning U.S. Government efforts – diplomatic engagement, foreign assistance, and defense – toward supporting locally legitimate authorities and systems to peaceably manage conflict and prevent violence.”.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) ensure that all relevant United States Government departments and agencies coordinate to achieve coherent, long-term goals for programs designed to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility, including when implementing the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Initiative described in section 5(a);

(2) seek to improve global, regional, and local coordination of relevant international and multilateral development and donor organizations regarding efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility in fragile and violence-affected countries, and, where practicable and appropriate, align such efforts with multilateral goals and indicators;

(3) expand and enhance the effectiveness of United States foreign assistance programs and ac-
tivities to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected
areas, and address the long-term causes of violence
and fragility, including programs intended to im-
prove the indicators described in section 5(d)(1);

(4) support the research and development of ef-
fective approaches to prevent violence, stabilize con-
flict-affected areas, and address the long-term
causes of violence and fragility; and

(5) improve the monitoring, evaluation, learn-
ing, and adaptation tools and authorities for relevant
United States Government departments and agen-
cies working to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-af-
fected areas, and address the long-term causes of vi-
olence and fragility.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR
THE GLOBAL FRAGILITY AND VIOLENCE RE-
DUCTION INITIATIVE.

It is the sense of Congress that the President, the
Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Sec-
retary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal
departments and agencies, should work with Congress to
provide sufficient types and levels of funding to—

(1) allow for more adaptive program planning
and implementation under the initiative and priority
country or regional plans required under section 5,
including through exemptions from specific and minimum funding levels when such exemptions would make programs better able to respond to monitoring and evaluation or changed circumstances in relevant countries;

(2) better integrate conflict and violence reduction activities into other program areas where appropriate; and

(3) contribute to the creation of transparent and accountable multilateral funds, initiatives, and strategies to enhance and better coordinate both private and public efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility.

SEC. 5. GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE FRAGILITY AND VIOLENCE.

(a) Initiative.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish an interagency initiative, to be referred to as the “Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence”, to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility.
(b) Implementation Plan.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an interagency implementation plan for the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence established pursuant to subsection (a) that includes the following:

1. Descriptions of the overall goals, objectives, criteria, and metrics guiding the implementation, including with respect to prioritizing countries and measuring progress.

2. A list of the priority countries and regions selected pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

3. Identification of the roles and responsibilities of each participating Federal department or agency, while ensuring that with respect to activities relating to stabilization—

   (A) the Department of State shall be the overall lead for establishing United States foreign policy and advancing diplomatic and political efforts;
(B) USAID shall be the lead implementing agency for development, humanitarian, and related non-security programs;

(C) the Department of Defense shall support the activities of the Department of State and USAID as appropriate, including by providing requisite security and reinforcing civilian efforts, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID; and

(D) other Federal departments and agencies shall support the activities of the Department of State and USAID as appropriate, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID.

(4) Identification of the authorities, staffing, and other resource requirements needed to effectively implement the initiative.

(5) Descriptions of the organizational steps the Department of State, USAID, the Department of Defense, and each other relevant Federal department or agency will take to improve planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, adaptive management, and iterative learning with respect to the programs under such initiative.
(6) Descriptions of the steps each relevant Federal department or agency will take to improve coordination and collaboration under such initiative with international development organizations, international donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.

(7) Descriptions of potential areas of improved public and private sector research and development, including with academic, philanthropic, and civil society organizations, on more effective approaches to preventing violence, stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and addressing the long-term causes of violence and fragility.

(8) Plans for regularly evaluating and updating, on an iterative basis—
   (A) the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence;
   (B) the interagency implementation plan described in this subsection; and
   (C) the priority country and regional plans described in subsection (e).

(e) PRIORITY COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PLANS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and
the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees 10-year plans to align and integrate the diplomatic, development, security, and other relevant activities of the United States Government with the initiative required under subsection (a) for each of the priority countries and regions designated pursuant to subsection (d). Such priority country and regional plans shall include:

1. Specific interagency plans for coordination and implementation under the country or regional plan.

2. Descriptions of how and when the relevant goals, objectives, and plans for each priority country or region will be incorporated into relevant United States country plans and strategies, including Department of State Integrated Country Strategies, USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategies, and Department of Defense Campaign Plans, Operational Plans, and Regional Strategies, as well as any equivalent or successor plans or strategies.

3. Interagency plans to ensure that appropriate local actors, including government and civil society entities and organizations led by women, youth, or under-represented communities, have roles in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating,
and updating relevant aspects of each such country or regional plan.

(4) Clear, transparent, and measurable diplomatic, development, and security benchmarks, timetables, and performance metrics for each such country and region that align with best practices where applicable.

(5) Interagency plans for monitoring and evaluation, adaptive management, and iterative learning that provide for regular and iterative policy and program adaptations based on outcomes, lessons learned, and other evidence gathered from each such country or region and across such countries and regions.

(6) Descriptions of the available policy tools to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility in each such country or region.

(7) Descriptions of the resources and authorities that would be required for each relevant Federal department or agency to best implement each such country or regional plan, as well as evidence-based iterative updates to such plans.

(8) Descriptions of potential areas of improved partnership with respect to each country or region,
regarding efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility, between the United States Government and—

(A) international development organizations;

(B) relevant international donors;

(C) multilateral organizations; and

(D) the private sector.

(d) Designation of Priority Countries and Regions.—

(1) Identification of Candidate Countries and Regions.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID and the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, shall develop a list of candidate countries and regions to be considered for inclusion under the initiative on the basis of—

(A) clearly defined indicators of high levels of violence and fragility in such country or region, such as—

(i) violence committed by armed groups, gender-based violence, and violence against children and youth;
(ii) prevalence of, and citizen support for, adversarial armed groups;

(iii) internal and external population displacement;

(iv) patterns of human rights violations, including early warning indicators of the commission of genocide or other atrocities;

(v) poor governance, pervasive corruption, and political instability; and

(vi) vulnerability to current or future transnational threats; and

(B) the capacity and opportunity to work across Federal departments and agencies and with local partners and other donors to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility with respect to such country or region, including by measurably—

(i) improving inclusive, transparent, and accountable power structures, including effective, legitimate, and resilient national and sub-national institutions;
(ii) improving effective and respected conflict prevention, mitigation, management, and resolution mechanisms;

(iii) reducing levels of support among the residents of such country or region for violence, violent extremism, and adversarial armed groups;

(iv) ensuring strong foundations for plurality, non-discrimination, human rights, rule of law, and equal access to justice;

(v) addressing political, social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities, grievances, and conflicts;

(vi) ensuring inclusive economic development and enabling business environments; and

(vii) improving resilience to transnational stresses and shocks, including from organized crime, violent extremist organizations, and economic and food markets crises.

(2) Selection of priority countries and regions.—From among the candidate countries and regions identified pursuant to paragraph (1), the
Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID and the Secretary of Defense, shall select certain countries as “priority countries” and certain regions as “priority regions” in a manner that ensures that—

(A) countries and regions are selected in a sufficient number and of sufficient diversity to provide indicators of the various drivers and early warnings of violence, conflict, and fragility, as well as best practices for United States efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility;

(B) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Stabilization Countries” or “Stabilization Regions”, in which the current levels of violence, violent conflict, or fragility are among the highest in the world;

(C) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Prevention Countries” or “Prevention Regions”, in which current levels of violence, violent conflict, or fragility are lower than such levels in Stabilization Countries or Stabilization Regions but warning signs for
future violence, conflict, or fragility are significant;

(D) regions, rather than individual countries, are selected where the threat or spillover of violence, conflict, or fragility threatens the stability of multiple countries within a single geographic region; and

(E) the countries and regions selected are in the areas of responsibility of at least three geographic bureaus of the Department of State.

(c) Stakeholder Consultation.—The initiative required under subsection (a) shall be developed in coordination with representatives of local civil society and national and local governance entities, as well as relevant international development organizations, multilateral organizations, donors, and relevant private, academic, and philanthropic entities, as appropriate.

(f) Congressional Consultation.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, and the Secretary of Defense shall provide regular briefings on the implementation of this Act to any appropriate congressional committee upon the request of such committee.

(g) Measuring Violence, Violent Conflict, and Fragility.—For the purposes of implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of the priority
country and regional plans required under subsection (e),
progress towards preventing violence, stabilizing conflict-
affected areas, and addressing the long-term causes of vio-
ence and fragility shall be measured by indicators estab-
lished for each such country by relevant inter-agency coun-
try teams for each such country, informed by consultations
with the stakeholders specified in subsection (e).

SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND UPDATES OF PRIORITY
COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PLANS.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-
ministrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the
heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies,
and in consultation with the relevant United States Amb-
bassadors, USAID Mission Directors, geographic Combat-
ant Commanders, and other relevant individuals with re-
sponsibility over activities in each priority country or re-
gion designated pursuant to section 5, shall ensure that—

(1) the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility
and Violence and the priority country and regional
plans required under such section are implemented,
updated, and coordinated on a regular and iterative
basis;

(2) such initiative and country and regional
plans are used to guide United States Government
policy at a senior level and incorporated into rel-
evant strategies and plans across the United States
Government and in each such country;

(3) resources for all relevant activities and re-
quirements of such initiative and country and re-
gional plans are prioritized, requested, and used con-
sistent with such initiative and country and regional
plans; and

(4) the results of program monitoring and eval-
uation under such initiative and country and re-
gional plans are regularly reviewed and used to de-
termine continuation, modification, or termination of
future year programming.

SEC. 7. BIENNIAL REPORTS AND CONGRESSIONAL CON-
SULTATION.

(a) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than two years
after the date of the enactment of this Act and every two
years thereafter until the date that is 10 years after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense,
and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
agencies shall jointly submit to the appropriate congres-
sional committees a report on progress made and lessons
learned with respect to the Global Initiative to Reduce
Fragility and Violence and each priority country or re-
gional plan required under section 5, including—
(1) descriptions of steps taken to incorporate such initiative and such country or regional plans into relevant strategies and plans that affect such countries or regions;

(2) accountings of all funding received and obligated to implement each such country or regional plan during the past two years, as well as funding requested, planned, and projected for the following two years;

(3) descriptions of progress made towards the goals and objectives established for each such priority country or region, including progress made towards achieving the specific targets, metrics, and indicators described in section 5(b); and

(4) descriptions of updates made during the past two years to the goals, objectives, plans of action, and other elements described in section 5 for each such country or regional plan, as well as any changes made to programs based on the results of monitoring and evaluation.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.—In addition to the reports required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies shall jointly consult with the appro-
priate congressional committees at least once a year re-
garding progress made on the initiative and priority coun-
try and regional plans required under section 5.

SEC. 8. GAO REVIEW.

(a) In general.—Not later than two years after the
date of the enactment of this Act and every two years
thereafter until the date that is 10 years after the date
of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
the United States shall consult with the Chairman and
Ranking Member of the Foreign Relations Committee of
the Senate and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the
House of Representatives regarding opportunities for
independent review of the activities under the Global Ini-
tiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence and the priority
country and regional plans required by section 5, includ-
ing—

(1) opportunities to—

(A) assess the extent to which United
States Government activities in each priority
country designated pursuant to section 5 are
being implemented in accordance with the ini-
tiative and the relevant country or regional plan
required under such section;

(B) assess the processes and procedures
for coordinating among and within each rel-
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relevant Federal department or agency when im-
plemeting such initiative and each such coun-
try or regional plan;

(C) assess the monitoring and evaluation
efforts under such initiative and each such
country or regional plan, including assessments
of the progress made and lessons learned with
respect to each such plan, as well as any
changes made to activities based on the results
of such monitoring and evaluation; and

(D) recommend changes necessary to bet-
ter implement United States Government activi-
ties in accordance with such initiative and coun-
try and regional plans, as well as recommenda-
tions for any changes to such initiative or
plans; and

(2) such other matters the Comptroller General
determines to be appropriate.

(b) Availability of Information.—All relevant
Federal departments and agencies shall make all relevant
data, documents, and other information available to the
Comptroller General for purposes of conducting inde-
pendent reviews pursuant to this section.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—
(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.—The term “relevant Federal department or agency” means the Department of the Treasury and any other Federal department or agency the President determines is relevant to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill To reduce global fragility and violence by improving the capacity of the United States to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility, and for other purposes.”.
To establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2018

Mr. McCaul (for himself and Mr. Keating) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. TRANS-SA哈RA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-
SHIP.

(a) Trans-Sah<1RA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-
SHIP.—

(1) Establishment.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership, to be known as the “Trans-Sahara Counterter-
rorism Partnership” (TSCTP), to coordinate all United States programs, projects, and activities in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build the capacity of foreign mili-
tary and law enforcement entities in such re-
gions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

(B) To improve the ability of foreign mili-
tary and law enforcement entities in such re-
gions to cooperate on counterterrorism efforts.

(C) To enhance the border security capac-
ity of partner countries in such regions, includ-
ing the ability to monitor, restrain, and inter-
dict terrorist movements.

(D) To strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including access to justice, and the ability of the law enforcement entities of such
partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to,
investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

(E) To monitor and counter the financing
of terrorism.

(F) To further reduce any opportunities
among communities in such regions for recruit-
ment or incitement for terrorist activities
through public diplomacy efforts, such as sup-
porting youth employment, promoting mean-
ingful participation of women, strengthening local
governance and civil society capacity, and im-
proving access to education.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating programs
through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State may
also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of
National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury,
the Attorney General, and the heads of other rel-
evant Federal departments and agencies.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later
than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activ-
ity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to para-
graph (1), the Secretaries of State shall submit a
notification, in accordance with the requirements of
section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
(22 U.S.C. 2394–1), that includes the following:
(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1).

(B) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(C) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country or entity to absorb the training or equipment to be provided.

(D) The estimated cost, implementation timeline, and delivery schedule for assistance.

(E) A description of the arrangements to sustain any equipment provided by the activity beyond the completion date of such activity, if applicable, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(F) The amount, type, statutory authorization, and purpose of any United States assistance provided to such foreign country during the three preceding fiscal years.

(b) Comprehensive Strategy for Counterterrorism Efforts.—

(1) Development.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of
Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, interagency strategy that—

(A) highlights the desired end states, strategic objectives, and sub-objectives for the United States counterterrorism effort in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to counter violent extremism; and

(B) includes a plan by the Secretary of State for the manner in which programs shall be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

(2) Supporting material in annual budget request.—The Secretary of State shall include, in the budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the President (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) for each fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, a description of the requirements, activities, and planned allocation of amounts requested by the TSCTP.
(3) Form.—The report required by paragraph (1) and each description required under paragraph (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(c) Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Programs and Activities.—

(1) Monitoring and Evaluation.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall conduct rigorously assess, monitor, and evaluate programs coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1) including by the following:

(A) Initial assessments of partner capability requirements, potential programmatic risks, baseline information, and indicators of efficacy for purposes of planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the programs and activities coordinated by the TSCTP.

(B) Evaluations of the efficiency and effectiveness of such programs and activities.

(C) Monitoring implementation of such programs and activities with respect to the stated objectives outlined in the strategy required under subsection (b)(1).
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(D) Identification of lessons learned in carrying out such programs and activities to develop recommendations for improving such strategy and future security cooperation programs and activities of the TSCTP.

(2) BEST PRACTICES REQUIREMENTS.—The ongoing assessment required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with the best practices described in section 383(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—For the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on the findings of the ongoing assessment required by paragraph (1) during the previous fiscal year. Each report shall include, with respect to such previous year, the following:

(i) A description of all activities coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1).
(ii) An evaluation of the lessons learned and best practices identified in accordance with paragraph (2).

(iii) An analysis of major actions taken by the government of each foreign country receiving assistance coordinated by the TSCTP to combat corruption, improve transparency and accountability, and promote other forms of good governance such as those described in section 133 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152e) (relating to programs to encourage good governance).

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF EFFICIENCY EVALUATION.—The Secretaries of State and Defense shall jointly make publicly available a summary of each evaluation conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), from which the Secretaries may redact or omit any information that the Secretaries determine should not be disclosed to the public in order to protect the interests of the United States or of any relevant foreign country.
(C) **Form.**—The report required by sub-
paragraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassi-

fied form but may include a classified annex.

(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES**

**DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
gressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on
Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Com-
mittee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
tives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on
Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intel-
ligence of the Senate.
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6018
OFFERED BY MR. MCCAUL OF TEXAS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, launched in 2005, is an interagency program to assist partner countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address terrorist threats and prevent the spread of violent extremism;

(2) armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments,
and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of radical Islamist extremism and build partner countries’ capacity to combat these threats in Africa;

(4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance; and

(5) to address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions of Africa, a coordinated, interagency approach is needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.

(a) Trans-Saharan Counter Terrorism Partnership.—

(1) Establishment.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partner-
ship, to be known as the “Trans-Sahara
Counterterrorism Partnership” (TSCTP), to coordi-
nate all United States programs, projects, and ac-
tivities in North and West Africa that are conducted
for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build the capacity of foreign mili-
tary and law enforcement entities in such re-
gions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

(B) To improve the ability of foreign mili-
tary and law enforcement entities in such re-
gions to cooperate with the United States and
other partner countries on counterterrorism ef-
forts.

(C) To enhance the border security capac-
ity of partner countries in such regions, includ-
ing the ability to monitor, restrain, and inter-
dict terrorists.

(D) To strengthen the rule of law in such
countries, including access to justice, and the
ability of the law enforcement entities of such
partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to,
investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

(E) To monitor and counter the financing
of terrorism.
(F) To further reduce any vulnerabilities among affected populations in such regions to recruitment or incitement of terrorist activities through public diplomacy efforts, such as supporting youth employment, promoting meaningful participation of women, strengthening local governance and civil society capacity, and improving access to economic opportunities and education.

(2) Consultation.—In coordinating programs through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State shall also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(3) Congressional notification.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretaries of State shall submit a notification, in accordance with the requirements of section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1), that includes the following:

(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced
in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1)

(B) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(C) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country or entity to absorb the assistance to be provided.

(D) The estimated cost and anticipated implementation timeline for assistance.

(E) As applicable, a description of the arrangements to sustain any equipment provided by the activity beyond the completion date of such activity, if applicable, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(F) The amount, type, statutory authorization, and purpose of any United States security assistance provided to such foreign country during the three preceding fiscal years pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip” authorities of the Department of Defense.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS.—
(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, interagency strategy that—

(A) states the objectives of the United States counterterrorism effort in North and West Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to counter violent extremism; and

(B) includes a plan by the Secretary of State for the manner in which programs shall be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including which agency or bureau of the Department of State, as applicable, will be responsible for leading and coordinating each such program; and

(C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate TSCTP programs and identifies the key indicators that will be used to measure performance and progress under the strategy.

(2) SUPPORTING MATERIAL IN ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST.—The Secretary of State shall include,
in the budget materials submitted in support of the
budget of the President (submitted to Congress pur-
suant to section 1105 of title 31, United States
Code) for each fiscal year beginning after the date
of the enactment of this Act, a description of the re-
quirements, activities, and planned allocation of
amounts requested by the TSCTP.
(c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS
AND ACTIVITIES.—
(1) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Sec-
retary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of
Defense and the Administrator of the United States
Agency for International Development, shall monitor
and evaluate the programs coordinated by the
TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1) in accordance
with the plan outlined pursuant to subsection
(b)(1)(C).
(2) REPORT.—For the 5-year period beginning
180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
the Secretary of State shall submit to the appro-
priate congressional committees an annual report on
monitoring and evaluation efforts pursuant to para-
graph (1) that describes—
(A) the progress made in meeting the ob-
jectives listed in the strategy required by sub-
section (b)(1), including any lessons learned in carrying out TSCTP programs and activities and any recommendations for improving such programs and activities;

(B) the efforts taken to coordinate, de-conflict and streamline TSCTP programs to maximize resource effectiveness;

(C) the extent to which each partner country has demonstrated the ability to absorb the equipment or training provided in the year previous under TSCTP programs, and where applicable, the ability to maintain and appropriately utilize such equipment provided;

(D) the extent to which each partner country is investing its own resources to advance the goals described in subsection (a)(1) or demonstrated a commitment and willingness to cooperate with the United States to advance such goals; and

(E) the actions taken by the government of each partner country receiving assistance through programs coordinated by the TSCTP to combat corruption, improve transparency and accountability, and promote other forms of good governance.
(d) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection (b)(1) and the report required by subsection (c)(2) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.”.
AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 6018
OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS OF NORTH
CAROLINA

Page 4, after line 9, insert the following:

1 (G) To support independent, local-lang-
2 uage media, particularly in rural areas, to
3 counter media operations and recruitment prop-
4 aganda by terrorist organizations.

Page 4, line 14, insert "the Chief Executive Officer
of the United States Agency for Global Media (formerly
known as the Broadcasting Board of Governors)," after
"the Attorney General,"

Page 4, line 19, strike "Secretaries" and insert
"Secretary"
H.R. 6413

To combat trafficking in human organs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2018

Mr. TROTT (for himself and Mr. DEUTCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To combat trafficking in human organs, and for other purposes.

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strategy To Oppose Predatory Organ Trafficking Act” or the “STOP Organ Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 10 percent of all transplanted kidneys worldwide are illegally obtained,
often bought from vulnerable impoverished persons or forcibly harvested from prisoners.

(2) In 2004, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution urging its member-states to take measures to protect the poorest as well as vulnerable groups from exploitation by organ traffickers.

(3) On February 13, 2008, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT) hosted the “Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking”, and subsequently reported that a lack of adequate illicit organ trafficking laws has provided opportunity for the illegal trade to grow.

(4) On March 21, 2011, the Council of the European Union adopted rules supplementing the definition of criminal offenses and the level of sanctions in order to strengthen the prevention of organ trafficking and the protection of those victims.

(5) In 2005, the United States ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, a supplement to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which includes the removal of organs as a form of exploitation under the definition of “trafficking in persons”.

(6) According to a 2013 United Nations report from the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the economic and social divisions within and among countries is notably reflected in the illicit organ trafficking market, in which the victims are commonly poor, unemployed, and more susceptible to deceit and extortion.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the kidnapping or coercion of individuals for the purpose of extracting their organs for profit is in contradiction of the ideals and standards for ethical behavior upon which the United States has based its laws;

(2) the illegal harvesting of organs from children is a violation of the human rights of the child and is a breach of internationally accepted medical ethical standards described in WHO Assembly Resolution 57.18 (May 22, 2004);

(3) the illegal harvesting and trafficking of organs violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Article 3 which states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”, and in Article 4 which states that “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.”; and
(4) establishing efficient voluntary organ donation systems with strong enforcement mechanisms is the most effective way to combat trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to—
(1) combat the international trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs;
(2) promote the establishment of voluntary organ donation systems with effective enforcement mechanisms in bilateral diplomatic meetings, as well as in international health forums; and
(3) promote the dignity and security of human life in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

SEC. 5. REVOCATION OR DENIAL OF PASSPORTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ORGAN TRAFFICKERS.

The Act entitled "An Act to regulate the issue and validity of passports, and for other purposes", approved July 3, 1926 (22 U.S.C. 211a et seq.), commonly known as the "Passport Act of 1926", is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO DENY OR REVOKE PASSPORT.

(a) ISSUANCE.—The Secretary of State may refuse to issue a passport to any individual who has been con-
victed of an offense under section 301 of the National
Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274c) if such individual
used a passport or otherwise crossed an international bor-
der in the commission of such an offense.

“(b) REVOCATION.—The Secretary of State may re-
voke a passport previously issued to any individual de-
scribed in paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2000.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 103 of the Trafficking
Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) is
amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”
at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
period at the end and inserting: “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new
subparagraph:

“(C) trafficking of persons for the removal
of their organs (as defined in paragraph
(13));”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through
(15) as paragraphs (14) through (16), respectively; and
(3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following new paragraph:

“(13) TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THEIR ORGANS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs’ means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person, either living or deceased, for the purpose of removing one or more of such person’s organs, by means of—

“(i) coercion;

“(ii) abduction;

“(iii) deception;

“(iv) fraud;

“(v) abuse of power or a position of vulnerability; or

“(vi) transfer of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over a person described in the matter preceding clause (i).

“(B) ORGAN DEFINED.—In subparagraph (A), the term ‘organ’ has the meaning given the term ‘human organ’ in section 301(c)(1) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(c)(1)).”.
(b) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING.—Section 105(d)(3) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(3)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: “Such procedures shall include collection and organization of data from human rights officers at United States embassies on host country laws against trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs and any instances of violations of such laws.”.

SEC. 7. REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter through 2025, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive report that includes the following information:

(1) A description of the sources, practices, methods, facilitators, and recipients of trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs during the period covered by each such report.

(2) A description of activities undertaken by the Department of State, either unilaterally or in cooperation with other countries, to address and prevent trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs.
(3) A description of activities undertaken by countries to address and prevent trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The reports required under subsection (a) shall include the collection and organization of data from human rights officers at United States diplomatic and consular posts on host country laws against trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs, including enforcement of such laws, or any instances of violations of such laws.

(c) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The reports required under subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) Information provided in meetings with host country officials.

(2) Information provided through cooperation with United Nations or World Health Organization agencies.

(3) Communications and reports provided by nongovernmental organizations working on the issue of trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs.

(4) Any other reports or information sources the Secretary of State determines to be necessary and appropriate.
SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) ORGAN.—The term “organ” has the meaning given the term “human organ” in section 301(c)(1) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(c)(1)).

(3) TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THEIR ORGANS.—The term “trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs” means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person, either living or deceased, for the purpose of removing one or more of the person’s organs, by means of—

(A) coercion;

(B) abduction;

(C) deception;

(D) fraud;

(E) abuse of power or a position of vulnerability; or

(F) transfer of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control
SEC. 9. LIMITATION ON FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or any amendment made by this Act.
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6413
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA

Page 2, line 2, after “or” insert “in some cases”.

Page 4, beginning on line 3, strike “trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs” and each place it appears thereafter and insert “trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs”.

Page 6, beginning on line 3, strike “TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THEIR ORGANS” and each place it appears thereafter and insert “TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS”.

Page 6, beginning on line 8, strike “, either living or deceased,”.

Page 7, strike lines 1 through 9.

Page 7, line 11, strike “one year” and insert “two years”.

Page 8, after line 25, add the following:

1 (d) RELATION TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT.—The reports required under subsection (a) shall be deemed to satisfy the reporting requirements relating to
trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs under section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)).

Page 9, line 16, strike “, either living or deceased,”.
To extend certain authorities relating to United States efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria globally, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL

To extend certain authorities relating to United States efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria globally, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. INSPECTORS GENERAL AND ANNUAL STUDY.

Section 101 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7611) is amended—
(1) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)(iv)—

(i) by striking “four” and inserting “nine”; and

(ii) by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2019” and inserting “2024”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “2018” and inserting “2024”; and

(ii) by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2023”.

SEC. 3. PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA.

Section 202(d) of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7622(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—
(i) in clause (i), by striking “fiscal years 2009 through 2018” and inserting “fiscal years 2004 through 2023”; 
(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”; and
(iii) by striking clause (vi); and
(B) in subparagraph (B)—
(i) by striking clause (ii);
(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;
(iii) in clause (ii) (as redesignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph)—
(I) in the first sentence, by adding at the end before the period the following: “or section 104B or 104C of such Act”; and
(II) in the second sentence, by striking “for HIV/AIDS assistance”; and
(iv) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”; and
(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.
1 SEC. 4. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

2 Section 403(e) of the United States Leadership
3 Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of
4 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7673(e)) is amended by striking “2018”
5 and inserting “2023”.

6
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6651
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Page 2, line 16, strike “2023” and insert “2024”.

Strike section 4 and insert the following:

SEC. 4. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 403 of the United States Leadership Against
HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22
U.S.C. 7673) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “2018” and
inserting “2023”; and

(2) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding
paragraph (1), by striking “2018” and inserting
“2023”. 
Chairman ROYCE. So I now recognize myself to speak on today’s business.

So, first, we have the PEPFAR Extension Act, and for many of you who were on the this committee or know the history of the committee, in 2003, Congress and the Bush administration united in an effort to stem the tide of HIV infections that threatened to wipe out a generation of people living in Africa and today PEPFAR has proven highly effective.

It has saved innumerable lives. It has won the U.S. a great deal of good will.

Our committee has held many hearings, briefings—gone to Africa on multiple occasions to conduct oversight over the supply chain for this lifesaving program, and we will be finalizing a report on this important work.

And I want to thank Chairman Smith and Ranking Members Engel and Bass for their dedication to this issue.

Next, we have the Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act, and this codifies and enhances existing authorities for the President to hold Iran and to hold Iran’s militias accountable for their deadly activities in Iraq.

These militias are not only a threat to the Iraqi people, because earlier this month these militias launched mortars at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, if you’ll remember.

I want to thank the author, Representative Kinzinger, and Chairman Poe, who has held hearings on this issue on his subcommittee.

Next, I’d like to thank Ranking Member Engel and Chairman McCaul for the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act, and this act will allow the U.S. to better coordinate efforts to reduce conflict overseas which has caused unprecedented levels of human displacement.

The bill requires strong monitoring and evaluation so our overseas missions can learn from their past successes and learn from their failures.

And I’d also like to thank Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Keating for their work on the Trans Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act because Boko Haram and ISIS and al-Qaeda affiliates continue to wreak havoc across West Africa. So this legislation will improve U.S. diplomatic development and defense programs to confront these threats.

Next, we have the Stop Organ Trafficking Act. Global scarcity for transplant organs has led to an annual global black market of $1.2 billion.

Authoritarian states and human traffickers and even ISIS terrorists have profited from this disgusting practice. This bill closes a gap in U.S. law that currently fails to recognize organ trafficking as a form of human trafficking.

Next, we have the U.S.-Mexico Economic Partnership Act. As our neighbor to the south, Mexico is an important trading partner of the United States. So this bill builds on existing programs to increase our educational and professional exchanges between our two countries.

Next, I’d like to thank Chairman Cook for his timely and important resolution on Venezuela. This resolution further affirms Con-
gress’ continuing commitment to helping the people of Venezuela in their struggle against the Maduro regime’s brutal and destructive rule.

And I also thank Representative Donovan for his resolution that affirms the strong U.S.-Liberia relationship and our commitment to helping the Liberian people promote peace, prosperity, and democracy through the ongoing reconciliation process. This is an issue that I have long been engaged on dating back to the committee’s role in pressing for the arrest of the notorious war criminal Charles Taylor and then for his successful prosecution.

Next, we have House Resolution 931. This resolution recognizes the anniversary of the brutal and manufactured famine in Ukraine in the 1930s and it expresses Congress’ unwavering support for the Ukrainian people in their continuing struggle to establish a peaceful, democratic, and secure country in which basic human rights are respected.

And, finally, I thank Representative Castro for his resolution which affirms the value of our longstanding alliance with Australia and our mutually beneficial cooperation in a broad range of areas from defense to space.

And I now recognize the ranking member, Eliot Engel of New York, for his opening remarks.

Mr. Engel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for calling this markup, and thank you to all our colleagues for their hard work.

There are 10 good measures before us today and I am pleased to support them all.

First, I’d like to discuss H.R. 5273, the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act, which I authored with Representatives Poe, McCaul, Keating, and others. Thank you all and thanks, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this up today.

Global levels of violence are at a 25-year peak, and when a region faces violence the effects are felt far and wide. Economic development backslides, global stability wavers, terrorists thrive, and people flee their homes, creating large-scale refugee and migrant crises.

So it’s critical that we work to prevent this violence from happening in the first place. Since September 11th, we have learned a lot about what works and what doesn’t when it comes to stabilizing conflicts and preventing violence from breaking out.

Those lessons should shape American policy. That’s what this bill does. It establishes an initiative to reduce fragility and violence that will align American engagement with the lessons we have learned.

It will require the State Department, USAID, and the Department of Defense to coordinate their diplomatic, development, and security activities with a focus on 10 priority countries and it requires best practices as we work with partners, measure results, and adapt to changing conditions.

We need to update our Government’s policies to prevent violence and I ask all members to join me in supporting the bill.

And when unspeakable violence does occur, we need to properly recognize the perpetrators of those crimes and hold them accountable.
Mr. Donovan’s measure, H. Res. 1055, would help do so by re-affirming the historic U.S. relationship with Liberia and calling for the Government of Liberia to hold accountable those who carry out mass violence and atrocities during the country’s civil war in the 1990s.

In places where instability leads to terrorism and conflict, it’s important that we collaborate with our allies in a united interagency effort.

So I support Mr. McCaul’s Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act, which strengthens our work across the U.S. Government to assist partners in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Our partnerships with foreign countries are important for economic development as well, especially when it comes to our neighbors. That brings me to Mr. Cuellar’s United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act.

Mexico is a friend and ally, our third largest trading partner, and a country with which we share extraordinarily close cultural and familial ties.

This bill requires the Secretary of State to expand educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico. It’s important that we send a strong message to the Mexican people that the United States Congress will not walk away from them, despite the damage that has been done to its relationship in recent months and years.

I’ll turn now to a resolution condemning the dire humanitarian situation in Venezuela sponsored by Representatives Cook and Sires.

The current situation in Venezuela is really just horrendous. President Maduro has turned the country into a full-fledged dictatorship and victimized his citizens.

It’s a tragedy which requires world leaders to speak out, but not with the sort of reckless threats and bellicose rhetoric we have heard from the administration.

This measure represents a strong bipartisan message from Congress and I urge all members to support it.

Keeping countries stable is critical, especially in areas where foreign governments are seeking to create disorder.

Mr. Kinzinger and Mr. Suozzi’s Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act works to prevent dangerous outsiders from nefariously interfering in Iraq by slapping sanctions on any foreign person conducting significant destabilizing activities in that country.

Especially at this time in Iraq, it is important that the United States send a clear signal to the Iraqi people and regional actors that what happens in Iraq matters to the United States, that we have an interest, and I thank my colleagues for this bill.

Next, I’ll discuss the PEPFAR Extension Act. As the sponsor of the last PEPFAR reauthorization in 2013, I am proud to support the bipartisan bill before us today.

PEPFAR, as the chairman mentioned, is a landmark program dedicated to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. Thanks to PEPFAR, 14 million men, women, and children are on lifesaving treatment and more than 2 million babies were born HIV-free to
mothers living with HIV. This is remarkable progress and we must keep striving for more.

The PEPFAR Extension Act before us today will help ensure this phenomenal work continues for another 5 years. It’s an excellent program with bipartisan support and I urge all members to join me in voting for this measure.

I’d also like to recognize Mr. Castro’s resolution affirming U.S.-Australia cooperation on space research and exploration. I support this measure that highlights this important area of international cooperation with one of America’s closest friends and allies.

Next, Congressman Sandy Levin’s measure that recognizes the 85th anniversary of the 1932 famine in Ukraine—as we watch the Russian occupation in Crimea and aggression against eastern Ukraine, we are reminded that this horrific human tragedy was designed by Stalin to crackdown on Ukrainian resistance to Soviet rule.

With this measure, Congress solemnly remembers the millions of Ukrainians who perished in this genocide. I urge all members to support it.

Another good bill before us today is the STOP Organ Trafficking Act. I want to thank Representative Deutch and Trott for reintroducing this measure, which passed with overwhelming support in the last Congress.

The need for transplant organs throughout the world has led to a gruesome underground trade of organs. It’s horrifying and we need to have laws and research directed at solving this. This bill is a step in the right direction. I urge all members to support the measure.

Once again, thank you to all our members. Thank you for your hard work on this committee over the last 2 years. I want to just say at the end of this markup we will have a brief meeting here in the chairman’s room with the Prime Minister of Kosovo, and I hope that all members of the committee on both sides will join us for a few minutes to meet with Ramush Haradinaj, the Prime Minister of Kosovo.

So thank you for everything, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Paul Cook of California seeks recognition.

Mr. COOK. Chairman Royce, thank you for holding this important markup today.

I am pleased to be joined by Ranking Member Engel, Chairman Emeritus Ros-Lehtinen, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Sires, along with several other members, in sponsoring House Resolution 1006 on Venezuela.

The situation in Venezuela worsens every day with hyperinflation projected to reach an unimaginable 1 million percent by the end of the year.

China and Russia continue bankrolling Venezuela’s failed economy and Cuban intelligence agents have enabled Nicolas Maduro to suppress the opposition and illegitimately cling to power.

More than 2.3 million Venezuelans have fled the country, creating a vast regional migration and potential public health crisis as countries have struggled to respond.
This week, President Trump and Vice President Pence affirmed U.S. commitment to supporting the Venezuelan people. The announcement of an additional $48 million for humanitarian assistance brings total American support to over $118 million in aid to Western Hemisphere countries responding to the Venezuelan migration crisis.

The additional U.S. sanctions on four members of Nicolas Maduro’s inner circle and seizure of $20 million of private jets are just critical to show the criminality and corruption of the Maduro regime at the expense of the Venezuelan people and emphasize that loyalty to Maduro comes at a steep cost. These efforts build on previous U.S. sanctions as well as those by Canada, the European Union, and Switzerland.

Moving forward, we need to see more actions by the U.S. and countries in the Western Hemisphere. House Resolution 1006 that we are discussing today recognizes and applauds the efforts by the Lima Group, the Organization of American States, as well as the 19 countries that voted in favor of the most recent OAS resolution on Venezuela last June.

Notably, there are another 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean who voted against or abstained from voting on that OAS resolution.

Today, there is no excuse for enabling the continuation of tyranny in Venezuela or the corresponding havoc on the region. This resolution affirms the U.S. support for the legitimate National Assembly and Supreme Court and urges countries in the region, especially those 12 who have been reticent to take action, to support democracy in Venezuela, and an investigation under international law into crimes against humanity by the Maduro regime.

Recent leadership by the Governments of Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, and Canada to seek to hold Maduro accountable for his crimes against the Venezuelan people is welcome news and I commend these governments’ actions.

In conclusion, the resolution also urges further U.S. sanctions and public diplomacy efforts to expose corruption among Venezuelan officials and greater regional and global coordination on imposing sanctions on Venezuelan officials responsible for the ongoing crisis and it demonstrates the continuing and unwavering support of the U.S. Congress for the people of Venezuela and all efforts to end this crisis and support a return to democracy.

Thank you, I yield back.

Chairman Royce. Thank you, Mr. Cook.

Mr. Joaquin Castro of Texas.

Mr. CASTRO. Thank you, Chairman, and thank you to all the members and everybody who worked on the pieces of legislation in front of us today.

The bills and resolutions considered today on Australia, Ukraine, Venezuela, Liberia, Mexico, Iran, global fragility, Counterterrorism in West Africa, organ trafficking, and HIV/AIDS address important issues in the world.

And I’d first like to thank the committee for considering my resolution that I authored with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik of New York on supporting greater cooperation on space research, exploration and utilization with our Australian allies.
This July, the Australian Government set up their first space program. This year marks 100 years of close cooperation between the United States and Australia, dating back to the First World War where the two countries fought side by side.

The alliance has only deepened in the century that followed to include diplomatic, cultural, and economic cooperation in addition to space exploration.

In fact, Australia played a part in one of America’s most notable achievements in space. The first images of Neil Armstrong on the moon were relayed to the American people and the world through radio stations in Australia.

There is value in the United States’ deepening cooperation with our allies and partners in exploring space and finding commercial opportunities outside our planet as we seek to improve our understanding of the universe and our place within it and I appreciate the support of my colleagues in this measure and would ask for their support on it.

I would next like to voice my support for the United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act introduced by Ranking Member Engel and by my colleague from Texas, Henry Cuellar.

At a time when we have a President that’s consistently attacked Mexico and Hispanic Americans in our own nation, this bill supports greater educational and economic ties between the United States and Mexico when we need it most.

A friendly productive relationship with our neighbor to the south is vital for the continued prosperity and security of Americans, especially those in communities from border states like mine, Texas.

The programs the bill supports through the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative will help communities on both sides of the border strengthen academic opportunities, commerce, energy infrastructure, and medical care, and I’d like to thank the committee for marking this important measure up.

Next, I’d like to thank Chairman Cook and Ranking Member Sires for introducing the resolution on Venezuela that we are considering today.

The situation in the country is dire with the failed policies of Nicolas Maduro resulting in an economic collapse and the flight of millions of Venezuelan citizens to neighboring countries.

I urge my colleagues on this committee to support this measure and to support efforts by the Organization of American States and our partners in the region to support democracy and fight for democracy in Venezuela.

I also would like to thank the countries in the region, particularly Colombia, that have taken in so many of those that are fleeing the dire circumstances and situation in Venezuela.

All countries, including the United States, have a moral obligation to help those who flee persecution and catastrophe and are in desperation, and I am disappointed that the administration has reduced the number of refugees our country will be taking in this coming year down to 30,000 from an already low 45,000.

We are closing our doors and putting up walls at a time when there are many more people displaced around the world from their homes. In fact, today there are about 70 million around the world who are displaced.
I am proud to support the other measures as well. Thank you, Chairman. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Mr. Dan Donovan of New York.

Mr. DONOVAN. Thank you, Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, for holding this markup today.

We have many important measures on the calendar and, as always, it's a pleasure to work in a bipartisan manner to tackle tough foreign affairs matters and push toward legislation that will make a difference in the world.

Our schedule this week, both for hearings and this markup, has a heavy emphasis on global human rights. Of all the soaring rhetoric on this topic, our Founding Fathers said it best in the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

As this committee has seen time and time again, chaos lies in the wake of human rights violations, and when that happens it causes a country and even an entire region and continent to become destabilized.

This then creates a downward spiral of violence. Murder, rape, torture, and the lack of human dignity makes an area ripe for radicalization and leads to the absence of even the most basic sanitary and health services.

This dangerous combination then threatens our security here in the United States. Protecting human rights across the globe is not just morally the right thing to do, but it is also vital to our own national security.

Stopping war crimes before they happen is just as important as ensuring that justice prevails afterwards. Without justice, there cannot be healing for the victims and the cycle of turbulence will start anew.

This is why I am proud to sponsor H.R. 1055, to affirm strong United States-Liberian ties and support for democratic principles and call for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations including the establishment of an extraordinary criminal tribunal for Liberia.

My district, Staten Island and south Brooklyn, is home to thousands of Liberians who have fled the turbulence of civil war. My constituents have directly told me how important it is to them that Liberia establish an extraordinary war crimes tribunal.

Liberia itself recommended the establishment of a war crimes tribunal in its own Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Liberia's current President, President George Weah, called for the establishment of a war crimes tribunal in 2004 as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

There is time to put this into action. At this very moment, people who have committed unspeakable war crimes hold positions in Liberia's Government.

For example, Senator Prince Y. Johnson is an infamous war lord who tortured and murdered former President Samuel Doe. There
is a video of Johnson's sickening mutilation of President Doe where Johnson is, despicably, sipping on a beer, fanned by an assistant, while Johnson's minions cut off Doe's ear.

With the presence of Johnson and others in the current government, we are seeing Liberia's slow creep backward toward the murderous mayhem of its civil war days.

Liberians are, rightfully, clamoring for justice. Without it, I fear there will be further violence and turbulence, which nobody wants to see.

This is why it is so crucial to call upon Liberia and President Weah to establish a war crimes tribunal.

Thank you, Chairman Royce, my Democratic co-leader, Congressman Hank Johnson, and all of our other co-sponsors for supporting this resolution.

I would also like to thank the staff committee, especially Meg, Sean, and Marie, for their work on this matter. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution and continue to seek justice across the globe.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Donovan.

Mr. Sires of New Jersey.

Mr. SIRES. I want to start by thanking Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for bringing up these measures today. The 10 bipartisan measures being considered today is a testament to the continued efforts of Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel to set aside partisanship and ensure this committee gets things done.

I'd like to speak in support of House Resolution 1006, an important resolution introduced by Chairman Paul Cook. This resolution highlights the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused.

It also reaffirms support for the legitimate National Assembly and urges further regional action to help the Venezuelan people.

The resolution supports the findings of the Organization of American States' panel of experts that states that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the government of Nicolas Maduro has committed crimes against humanity and urges the region to support an investigation under international law.

I would also like to thank the chairman and his staff for working with us on our amendment to highlight Maduro's continued crackdown on political expression.

Deputy Juan Requesens was detained last month as Maduro used an alleged assassination attempt in August as an opportunity to further crack down on his opposition.

He is just one of many who have been detained and disappeared as Maduro tries to further consolidate power.

I want to thank Chairman Royce, Chairman Cook, and Ranking Member Engel for their continued attention to the plight of the Venezuelan people. I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.
I add my support for all the measures before us today. I’d like to offer some brief remarks on just a few.

First, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor along with you, Mr. Chairman, as well as our ranking member, Mr. Engel, Karen Bass, my fellow co-chair of the HIV/AIDS Caucus, Barbara Lee of Chris Smith’s PEPFAR Extension Act.

This important bill would extend this longstanding bipartisan lifesaving program for another 5 years. In 2003, President George W. Bush called on Congress to take action in responding to the global crisis of HIV/AIDS and I am proud that not only did we answer the President’s call but this committee took a leading role in the response.

I will never forget standing in the Oval Office as President Bush signed this essential program into law. When PEPFAR began 15 years ago, only 50,000 people in Africa were receiving HIV treatment.

Today, there are over 14 million people receiving HIV treatment globally and over 2 million babies are born HIV-free to HIV-positive women. Amazing.

PEPFAR is truly a shining example of American leadership and what our country can achieve when our branches of government work together in a bipartisan manner.

The United States must continue to lead the global response to HIV/AIDS, build on the strong partnerships that we have built around the world.

It continues to be the largest and most successful humanitarian aid commitment made by any nation in history. I urge all of my colleagues to give it their full support.

We see some of their proud advocates here today in the audience.

Next, I am also proud to be an original co-sponsor of our Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chairman Paul Cook’s House Resolution 1006.

This important resolution condemns the Maduro regime for its role in the deterioration of Venezuela’s democratic institutions and for the creation of a humanitarian crisis that grows worse by the day.

Maduro’s failed policies have left Venezuelan people malnourished, sick, poor, without food, without basic medical supplies.

The United States and our partners have a responsibility to do everything that we can to ensure humanitarian aid reaches the people of Venezuela and I am glad that this resolution calls not just for more assistance but for greater coordination in the region and beyond.

I commend the administration for allocating funds to help Venezuelan refugees in Colombia and for its continued targeted sanctions against the regime including those this very week against Maduro’s inner circle.

Whether it’s people like Cilia Flores, Maduro’s wife, or Diosdado Cabello, the head of the sham Constituent Assembly, we must continue putting pressure on those responsible and sending a strong message that the U.S. will not sit idly by as the regime continues its repression.

We must also, as this bill does, express our unwavering support for Venezuela’s legitimate democratic institutions like its duly
elected National Assembly and the Supreme Court, as well as civil society.

I thank my colleague, Paul Cook, and Albio Sires for their leadership on this resolution and for their tireless support for the people of Venezuela.

I offer my support also for my friend Adam Kinzinger’s bill, the Preventing Iran Destabilization Act. This important bill would impose sanctions against a multitude of Iranian militias, proxies, terrorist groups, and other nefarious entities operating in Iraq who are undermining our efforts at stabilization.

As Mr. Kinzinger knows firsthand, Iran’s activities in Iraq only benefit one country—Iran.

And finally, I’d like to say just a few words of support of Mr. McCaul’s bill, H.R. 6018, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act. Launched in 2005, this is an important program for building partner country capacity in a critical region of the world.

This bill both codifies the partnership into law while helping to sharpen its focus with some necessary oversight. I offer my full support for this as well as all of your bills.

As always, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you. Thank you.

We go now to Mr. David Cicilline from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to you and to the ranking member of this committee for bringing forth these important bills and resolutions.

While the world is facing the largest refugee crisis in recorded history with 22.5 million refugees worldwide, the Trump administration has cut refugee admissions for 2019 to a record low of 30,000.

In our own hemisphere, conditions in Venezuela have led to the largest migration crisis of its kind in recent Latin American history. According to the United Nations, more than 2.3 million Venezuelans have left their country since 2014.

It’s important for the United States to stand with partners in our hemisphere to condemn the actions of the Maduro regime, expose corruption among Venezuelan officials, support democratic actors, and provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela.

I am proud to support H. Res. 1006 and to be a co-sponsor of this resolution, which condemns the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused and calls on the President to increase support to the Venezuelan people.

H. Res. 1055, which affirms strong United States-Liberia ties and support for democratic principles and calls for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations including the establishment of an extraordinary criminal tribunal for Liberia, affirms the U.S. commitment to helping the Liberian people promote peace, prosperity, and democracy through the reconciliation process and supports the efforts of the State Department and USAID in advancing the rule of law, effective governance, and a strong civil society in Liberia.

In March of this year, the United Nations’ mission in Liberia successfully completed its mandate to help stabilize and develop Liberia following its civil wars.
I traveled to Liberia in 2013 and saw firsthand the amazing progress achieved by the people of Liberia in cooperation with the United States, the U.N., and the international community.

Under the 2003 comprehensive peace agreement, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established to address the widespread atrocities that had been committed.

However, Liberia has yet to hold a single person to account for past abuses. The United States and Liberia share close historical, political, and economic ties and it’s right that we should raise our voices alongside the international community to call upon the Liberian Government to establish a process of accountability to ensure that the perpetrators of gross human rights violations and war crimes are brought to justice.

I am proud to support and co-sponsor this measure and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

I am also proud to support H.R. 1567, the United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act. The United States and Mexico also share a long history of friendship and partnership.

The past and futures of both our nations are intertwined. Today, at a time when divisive rhetoric is easier to come by than a kind word, it’s more important than ever to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with our neighbors to the south.

By increasing educational and professional exchanges between our countries, the United States-Mexico economic partnership will help citizens of both nations to build relationships, share knowledge, and create opportunities that will help both countries grow and prosper.

H.R. 6413, the strategy to oppose predatory organ trafficking, is an important step toward—forward in addressing a horrific practice and protecting the most vulnerable.

Human trafficking for organ removal is at once an egregious human rights abuse and a form of human trafficking. Motivated by demand, international criminal organizations have taken the shortage of organs as an easy opportunity to pressure people from countries living in poverty into selling their organs.

By recognizing organ trafficking in the U.S. human trafficking framework and requiring reporting on trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs, this bill shines a light on this nightmarish practice.

And, finally, H.R. 6651, the PEPFAR Extension Act of 2008, I’ve always been a proud and vocal proponent of PEPFAR and I am glad that it has earned bipartisan support from Congress and multiple administrations.

This program has enabled expanded access to anti-viral therapies for those suffering with HIV and AIDS, which has led to a decrease in deaths from this devastating disease all around the world.

It support more than 14 million people with lifesaving anti-viral treatment and has contributed to the well-being of more than 2.2 million babies born HIV-free to pregnant women living with HIV.

It’s critical that the United States continue to play a leadership role in the fight against this disease and that’s why I am, once again, proud to support and co-sponsor the extension of PEPFAR in H.R. 6651, the PEPFAR Extension Act of 2008.
I am proud to support all these measures and urge my colleagues to do the same, and yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Cicilline.

Tom Garrett of Virginia.

Mr. GARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the members and the committee for bringing forth these meaningful pieces of legislation.

I am going to isolate my comments specifically on H. Res. 1006 and Venezuela and take this opportunity to speak to the tragic pattern that we have demonstrated across over 100 years of the failure to learn the lessons taught to us very clearly by history.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation is frustrating only in so far as I wish we could do more—the sense of Congress regarding a tragedy that’s literally impacted millions is the right thing to do and I am glad to support it and add my name to it.

And yet, time and again we have watched as individuals have been swept to power—Hugo Chavez and his successor, Nicolas Maduro—under promises to create utopian paradises by virtue of government regulation.

When this government regulation occurs at the expense of free markets, when it occurs vis-a-vis the disincentivization of individual initiative, these promises of fairness manifest themselves in the uniform distribution of poverty and suffering.

Whether Cambodia or Maoist China, whether the former Soviet Union or Cuba, the patterns and outcomes are all the same, and it is many times that I have implored my peers and superiors on this committee to remember the words of Arthur Vandenberg, that politics stop at the water’s edge.

So I will leave out American political leaders and their comments on Venezuela over the last going into 20 years. But let me say when luminaries and thought leaders like Michael Moore and Sean Penn join hands with people like Hugo Chavez, when the leader of the British Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, suggests that Hugo Chavez and, later, Nicolas Maduro will work to advance the cause of people struggling across Venezuela, what we have seen throughout the course of history is literally the destruction of lives.

Blessed with vast mineral resources, Venezuela, not long ago, was the wealthiest, most prosperous country in Central and Latin America. We now see, literally, millions displaced and a population wherein the average weight loss over the last 365 days is closing on 20 pounds. Maybe I should move there.

Having said that and making light, it’s a tragedy that need not repeat itself.

Mr. Chairman, before I came to this body and after I leave it, I will consider myself a historian and some lessons are written large on the pages of history, if we are only willing to listen.

No less a thought luminary than Gandhi once stated that man cannot be made good by law, and while I seek the best for the collective, I believe to my very core that the best of the collective is achieved by empowering the individual.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, it’s with some satisfaction that I lend my support to H. Res. 1006 but some disappointment that we seem condemned to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Thank you for your time, and I’d yield back.
Chairman Royce. Thank you. We appreciate your observations, Mr. Garrett.

I would say the advantage of the sense of Congress on sanctions and us moving this measure and the discussions we have had in subcommittee and full committee on it have had a desired effect in terms of pressuring the administration, and 2 days ago they did announce sanctions on Venezuela.

But I think your point is well taken and but I did want to make the point that our actions here and our pressures here often have results.

We go now to Tom Suozzi of New York.

Mr. Suozzi. Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, thank you again for your continued bipartisan work on this committee—the measures put forward here today—another example of the great work this committee has done under your bipartisan leadership.

Iran is continuing to use corruption and violence and their malign influence to manipulate Iraq’s political system. It’s threatening Iraq’s peace and stability and undermining their economic reconstruction.

I’d like to speak today in support of H.R. 4591, which I am cosponsoring, the Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act, and I want to thank Representative Kinzinger for his leadership on promoting stability throughout the Middle East.

At the United Nations this week, Iranian President Rouhani spoke against foreign interventions and imposition of “alien wishes of the people of the region.”

In an Atlantic op-ed last year, his Foreign Minister Zarif complained about countries which support “nonstate actors who wreak havoc through terror.” They both might want to look in the mirror.

In Iraq, Iranian-backed militias have committed human rights abuses for years, executing and beating civilians, and looting homes.

These same militias have taken roles to try and influence Iraq’s nascent political system. In Iraq’s recent elections, the IRGC Commander Qasem Soleimani himself has been spending time coercing Shi’ite parties with differing views to form a paramilitary parliamentary majority, one that presumably would be in favor of his agenda.

H.R. 4591 would sanction any foreign person—not just Iranians, but all—conducting significant destabilizing activities in Iraq.

Corruption is endemic and rampant in Iraq’s political system. As a representative government of the will of the people, it is key to long-term stability.

This version of the bill also includes important language from Representative Poe that would require our Government to look into designating two of Tehran’s proxies in Iraq—HHN and AAH—as foreign terrorist organizations.

By 2011, AAH claimed responsibility for thousands of attacks on U.S. and coalition forces. HHN, a hybrid of fighters from AAH and Hezbollah brigades of Iraq, has also played an active role against Americans during the Iraq war and now in Syria’s civil war, boasting a unit in the Golan Heights targeting Israel.

These groups must be called what they are—terrorists.
On a different note, I want to make sure I speak in special support of PEPFAR Extension Act—H.R. 6651. I want to thank co-sponsors Chris Smith and Barbara Lee.

This committee continues to do bipartisan work to promote human life and dignity worldwide by seeking to address acute humanitarian needs and to reduce global poverty.

U.S. goodwill reflects our shared value that all people deserve opportunities to reach their fullest potential and to promote the common good.

PEPFAR is one of the most successful programs demonstrating U.S. leadership. The reauthorization ensures that 10 percent is set aside for some of the most vulnerable among us—orphans and vulnerable children.

These programs provide psychological care and support household economic strengthening, legal protection, education, health and nutrition, and family and community strengthening services.

Strengthening the systems that support vulnerable children and families ensures that children living with the HIV virus receive the support they need and the HIV negative children know their status and remain negative.

Thank you for ensuring that children are protected as part of PEPFAR reauthorization, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman Royce. Mr. Chris Smith of New Jersey.

Mr. Smith. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your leadership in bringing all of these bills to the committee and, ultimately, to the floor.

I want to thank you for marking up my bill, H.R. 6651, the PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018—a 5-year extension of a landmark law authored by Chairman Henry Hyde in 2003.

Members who were here at the time might recall that Henry Hyde was eloquent, aggressive, and persuasive, because at that point we knew the pandemic was exploding all over the world, particularly in Africa, and that man whose portrait sits to my right, your left—Henry Hyde—was absolutely tenacious in making sure that we acted and we acted promptly with sufficient resources to really get the job done.

I'll never forget his eloquence. He compared the HIV/AIDS pandemic to the Black Death—to the bubonic plague that ravaged all of Europe—and he said, if we don't act who will.

And when we acted, Europe and many other countries began to follow suit and very, very critical masses of money and technical expertise and health interventions began to flow.

First proposed and strongly pushed by President Bush and continued through the Obama administration and into the Trump administration, PEPFAR has been and continues to be an historic sweeping health and humanitarian initiative that has saved the lives of millions, and it is a triumph of bipartisanship.

And let's not forget that the legislation also includes tuberculosis. In my committee we have held hearings just recently about how TB is now the leading infectious disease in the world and with multi-drug resistance making some people incurable—because TB is usually very curable—it is a problem.

So this money continues to be deployed in order to combat that and, of course, malaria, which ravages especially children espe-
cially in hot tropical climates, including and especially in Africa and some parts of Asia, this legislation, again, continues to provide very, very important money to those individuals in health care.

It is estimated that some 16 million lives have been saved—16 million—due to PEPFAR, and 13 countries are on track to control the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2020.

Consider that when PEPFAR was launched 15 years ago—and I know my good friend and colleague, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, pointed this out as well—only 50,000 people in Africa had access to any life-saving anti-retroviral treatment, or ARVs. Now, roughly, 14 million men, women, and children are receiving such ongoing treatment because it has to be ongoing in order to be efficacious in treating the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

PEPFAR has also made possible the end of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. Some 2.2 million babies have been born HIV-free to HIV-positive mothers.

It used to be the mom had the disease during the child traversing through the birth canal, it was highly likely that that girl or boy would contract the disease as well.

The lives of so many have been enhanced, not just those infected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, or malaria, but the family members and friends who have their loved ones with them now, today, are thriving because of this Henry Hyde initiative, which was backed so and pushed so strongly by President Bush and, of course, in a bipartisan way.

Our group of bipartisan original sponsors have sought to extend the reauthorization of PEPFAR, as I said in the beginning, for another 5 years.

I want to thank my lead Democratic sponsor Barbara Lee for her commitment to extending PEPFAR as well as to commend the leadership shown by Chairman Royce, Ranking Member Engel, Chairwoman Emeritus Ileana Ros-Lehtinen—and we will miss her—and my distinguished colleague on the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, my good friend and colleague, Ranking Member Karen Bass.

Upon consultation with Ms. Lee, we did decide to add an amendment which would explicitly extend programs aimed at supporting orphans and vulnerable children until 2023 as well.

This amendment has the support of a number of organizations including faith-based partners such as Catholic Relief Services and World Vision.

Finally, I also want to single out the extraordinary work of our PEPFAR coordinator, Ambassador Deborah Birx and thank her for her leadership. First serving in the Obama administration and now in the Trump administration, Ambassador Birx has been a model of results-oriented data-driven professionalism.

Her compassionate commitment to those who suffer from HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria is truly inspiring and remarkable.

On another bill—and I won’t speak to them all, just two more, Mr. Chairman, because they are all good. I’d like to thank Mr. Dan Donovan, a valued member of our Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations for his leadership that he has shown with regards to Liberia.
Congressman Donovan spearheaded a hearing which this subcommittee held on the future of democracy and governance in Liberia. He is a great friend of Liberia and of the Liberian-American community.

With House Resolution 1055, Mr. Donovan has again pointed a way forward for Liberia, a country which has emerged from a gruesome civil war in 2003. While it is true that the Special Court for Sierra Leone—we have had David Crane testify here many times at our subcommittee—the lead prosecutor—and they are the ones who convicted Charles Taylor, who never thought he would be held to account and he got 50 years and is now in prison for his horrific crimes in that quest for justice and there is a continued work for Truth and Reconciliation but it is unfinished.

To solidify the progress it has made in Liberia it is important that the report of recommendations issued by that Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2008 be implemented, including its recommendation for establishing an extraordinary criminal tribunal for Liberia.

This is a key item called for by Mr. Donovan’s H. Res. 1055. Liberia is a country with longstanding historical ties with the U.S. and our friendship and common bonds with Liberia are deep and genuine.

Liberia and Liberian Americans have no greater friend, I would say, than our good friend, Dan Donovan. You have been tenacious. Thank you.

Finally, I just want to make a comment on the STOP Organ Trafficking Act and strongly support it. This act amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by adding the involuntary removal and selling of organs as actionable items to be included in the TIP Report and all things that we do vis-a-vis trafficking persons.

Nowhere is there more evidence of this gruesome trade than in the People’s Republic of China, and I’ve held hearings on it on the China Commission, which I also chaired.

In the nearly 20-year effort to eradicate the Falun Gong, the Chinese Communist Party has illegally imprisoned and killed countless Falun Gong practitioners.

Researchers David Kilgour, David Matas, and Ethan Gutmann have conducted detailed investigation and estimated that between 45,000 to 65,000 Falun Gong practitioners were killed, murdered, for their organs, which were then sold for profit. Those estimates may now be even higher.

The Chinese Government continues to insist that accounts of torture, sexual crimes, and arbitrary detention and all of the human rights abuses for which they are known for of Falun Gong practitioners and others are mere rumors. And yet, the evidence points precisely to the opposite.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is an excellent next step in countering this vile trade and will bring us one step closer to ensure that life and human dignity are respected.

However, we should also be calling on the Department of State and the international medical community to do detailed analyses and studies on the trafficking of persons for the purpose of selling...
their organs and make every effort to ensure that countries such as China are held accountable.

Again, I want to thank Congressman Trott for his leadership. This is a tremendous bill and deserves the unanimous support of every member of this committee and the House.

Chairman ROYCE. And we go now to Mr. Espaillat of New York.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Engel. Thank you for continuing your bipartisan work in this committee.

There are a number of important pieces of legislation before this committee and I would like to highlight a few I find to be particularly important.

First, H.R. 1006, condemning the deterioration of the situation in Venezuela, recognizes the humanitarian crisis underway in that country, which has led to terrible food and health shortages, therefore, propelling many Venezuelans to flee to other countries, further adding to the refugee crisis.

In addition, the Maduro administration continues to crack down on the opposition and jail many of its leaders. It is important that we work with our allies to address this crisis and that we further our humanitarian assistance and multilateral sanctions.

The people of Venezuela are hungry for democracy and they are starving for food, and so this is fastly becoming a dramatic humanitarian crisis the region, propelled and pushed by the Maduro dictatorship. We must continue to do more to aid the people of Venezuela.

H.R. 1567, the United States-Mexico Partnership Act—this bill, which requires a strategy to further economic cooperation and prioritize educational and professional exchange programs between our country, highlights the crucial relationship between our countries.

This is vital at a time when the relationship between our nations have strained by the administration approach to negotiating with our neighbors.

Mexico continues to be a friendly neighboring country. We must treat it as such. I think this particular resolution furthers that rather than very harsh adversarial language that often puts people apart.

H.R. 4591, the Preventing Iranian Destabilization of Iraq Act, will sanction any person who is meddling in Iraq and causing further deterioration of the situation there.

Iran’s region meddling and state-sponsored terrorism must be reined in and we cannot allow for Iran to continue in this fashion.

I strongly support these and the other bills before the committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the remaining part of my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go now to Mr. Ted Poe.

Mr. Poe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am proud to support Mr. Kinzinger’s bill, H.R. 4591, the Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act. Just yesterday, my subcommittee held a hearing on Iran’s growing influence in Iraq.

It is my opinion and the opinion of others that Iran is trying to make Iraq a puppet state of Iran. Every witness made it clear the
biggest threat to Iraq’s continued stability and sovereignty today is Iran. On the ground, those who do Tehran’s bidding in Iraq are the multitude of Iranian proxy militias operating in the country. They have blood on their hands of Americans, Iraqis, Syrians, and Kurds.

In May, these terrorist criminals won increased power in Iraq’s Council of Representatives. We must do everything we can to isolate these terrorist groups—these militias. They not only directly threaten our soldiers and diplomats but they threaten the very future of a democratic and stable Iraq.

I am glad the committee has included the key components of my Iran Proxies Terrorist Sanction Act and Mr. Kinzinger’s bill. This will target two Iraqi militias that act as Iran’s foreign legion in Iraq and Syria. These two groups, known as AAH and HHN, are terrorist groups. They have killed Americans and just last month fired mortars at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and the U.S. consulate in Barra. Yet, despite the countless evil acts, they have not been designated as terrorist groups by our State Department. Instead, when my staff visited our Embassy in Baghdad recently these State Department officials scoffed at the proposal to sanction these murdering proxies, saying it would cause the groups to be aggressive against the U.S.

Well, the inaction allowed AAH and HHN and their Iranian masters to gain substantially more political power and then, in spite of the State Department’s appeasement and inaction, as I mentioned, recently—soon after my staff visited the Embassy, mortars came into the Embassy from these two groups. There are even other more prominent Iranian-controlled groups acting in Iraq and I hope this bill send a message to them that we know who they are.

I’ve also introduced an amendment that names seven individuals in leadership roles in various Iranian-backed proxy militias in Iraq. The amendment will require the State Department to determine whether they too should be designated as terrorists. These men have sworn allegiance to the Supreme Leader in Iran and have killed and displaced thousands in both Iraq and Syria. They are enemies of both the United States and the people of Iraq and the free world.

I would also like to commend Mr. Wilson for his amendment to target Afghan and Pakistani mercenary brigades of the IRGC operating in Iraq and Syria. Taken together, this bill will go a long way toward correcting the history of paralysis and inaction of the United States in dealing with proxies and the attempt of Iran to make Iraq a puppet state. I also am proud to have worked closely with Ranking Member Engel and Mr. Adam Smith and Mr. McCaul on H.R. 5273. Too often we focus our efforts on trying to end violence without addressing the underlying issues.

This bill is a bold attempt to change that. This bill will set up an initiative that will improve global, regional, and local coordination of efforts to prevent violence and address the root causes of violence.
Importantly, this initiative will improve the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance and enshrine rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

The bill will reform our approach to foreign assistance by having all U.S. Government agencies work together. What a novel approach that is.

And I want to thank Ranking Member Engel for his leadership on this issue as well as my colleagues, Mr. Smith and Mr. McCaul.

And lastly, in my comment in this remaining minute, I want to point out again, as been said before, that this committee works on a bipartisan basis—works very well on a bipartisan basis.

Other committees in the House of Representatives should take note of the bipartisanism of most of the legislation that comes out of this committee, and I really want to commend Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel on working together on these very important international issues and our committee speaking as one voice.

And lastly, my last comment would be I want to thank Mr. Engel, the ranking member, personally for the time that he has worked with me.

We come from almost two foreign countries—New York and Texas—and I appreciate his patience over the years in dealing with certain issues but talking to me personally, and I want to thank Ranking Member Engel for his long-time involvement in foreign affairs and in service in Congress.

And I'll yield back.

Mr. Engel. Would the gentleman yield to me before he——

Mr. Poe. Sure I'll yield.

Mr. Engel. Yes. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas, who has been an outstanding, a stellar member of this committee.

It's because of people like him and his intellect and his attitude that really has helped make this committee the bipartisan committee that we all strive on both sides of the aisle to make.

I have always said that when it comes to foreign policy, politics and partisanship should stop at the water's edge. The threats that we have to this country are threats to all of us, regardless of political persuasion, and that's what I like so much about this committee.

It's people like the gentleman from Texas who have added so much to this committee and to the dialogue through the years, and I certainly will miss him and I wish him godspeed and only the best.

Thank you. I yield back.

Mr. Poe. I thank the gentleman. I'll yield back my time to the chair.

Mr. Smith [presiding]. Thank you.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas, Michael McCaul.

Mr. McCaul. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member.

I, too, would like to say what an honor it's been to serve with Congressman Ted Poe, my dear friend and colleague.

We came into Congress together 15 years ago and I am going to miss you on a lot of levels. But you have served your country well, sir, and thank you so much for that.
I’d also like to thank Congressman Smith for his leadership on this PEPFAR extension. Since its inception, the program has provided lifesaving drugs to over 14 million people.

And I was recently at Texas Children’s Hospital at an event with the President of Botswana, who basically described how this program and what the doctors at Texas Children’s did was saved his country, in his words, from extinction.

It’s not very often we get to pass legislation in the Congress and hear that we saved a country from extinction because of a bill that Congress passed.

So, Congressman Smith, thank you for bringing this up again. It’s vitally important not only to Africa but to the world that we reauthorize this, and the importance of that program cannot be understated and I applaud the consideration of it again.

Turning my attention, I wanted to highlight two measures that I introduced—the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act—which I wrote with Ranking Member Engel, and the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act.

Both of these bills coordinate a whole of government approach to fight global terrorism at its root causes. Too often when global crises emerge the United States commits financial and other resources to immediately address the problem.

While we must continue to tackle such imminent threats, we must do more to prevent threats from emerging in the first place.

Now, this makes me think back to 2001. Prior to 9/11, Afghanistan was not a foreign policy priority of the United States. It was barely on anybody’s radar, and so were the Embassies in Africa and the USS Cole and the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

But 17 years later, we are still in Afghanistan committing significant resources to rebuilding that country. Afghanistan was what we call a fragile state.

Broadly speaking, these are countries where the government loses legitimacy in the eyes of its people and struggles to govern.

What if we could identify so-called fragile states ahead of time and prevent them from failing? That is why I helped introduce the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act.

This bill requires the administration to launch a global initiative to reduce fragility and violence, guiding our efforts to help fragile states down a path toward stability.

The bill also requires the Department of State, in coordination with USAID and the Department of Defense, to identify 10 countries or regions as pilot programs to start this new initiative.

Since each fragile state is different, this initiative is flexible to address the causes of fragility in each case. One area of the world where state fragility and violent extremism currently persists is in north and west Africa.

Since our operational successes against ISIS and the collapse of the caliphate, many of their fighters have splintered and fled to Africa where other terrorist organizations have flourished.

Today, it is estimated that 10,000 ISIS and al-Qaeda jihadists have already set up camps across the continent, with Boko Haram and others having spread terror for years.
These terrorist organizations pose an immediate threat and we must work with our regional governments to build their capacity to blunt these terrorists.

My bill, which I introduced with my friend, Mr. Keating, authorizes also for the first time the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership to aid our efforts to help fight these terrorists in Africa.

This program works alongside countries like Chad and Mali and Nigeria to build their capacity, to conduct counter terrorist operations.

This partnership also enhances the ability to monitor, restrain, and interject terrorist movements and strengthen the rule of law.

Furthermore, my bill requires the State Department, USAID, and Defense Department coordinate on a counterterrorism strategy for Africa and deliver that strategy to the Congress.

State fragility and, by extension, violent extremism is a major foreign policy challenge for the United States. But by taking a multifaceted multilayered approach as this bill does, we may be able to avert larger crises.

Now, it’s interesting to note—I mentioned 10,000 jihadists in Africa, and prior to 9/11 there were just several hundred al-Qaeda operatives—several hundred—and they pulled of 9/11.

And now, today, while I do believe the threat has gone down with the collapse of the caliphate, the fact that there is still thousands of these jihadists in northern Africa in the Sahel gives me great concern and great pause.

And so with that, I’d like to thank the ranking member and Mr. Keating and all the members of the committee for their support of this legislation.

I yield back.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you.

I’d like to now yield to Joe Wilson, the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. WILSON. And thank you, Acting Chairman Chris Smith.

I am grateful to Chairman Ed Royce and Ranking Member Eliot Engel for holding this markup on issues such as the very significant humanitarian crisis with the failure of socialism in Venezuela led by Congressman Paul Cook and Albio Sires—a bipartisan initiative—remembering the Ukrainian famine of 1932 caused by Soviet repression and extending the President’s emergency plan for AIDS relief, and many more.

All of today’s legislative actions are worthy of your attention and continue a positive bipartisan tradition of the committee.

I especially want to thank Congressman Adam Kinzinger for introducing the Preventing Iranian Destabilization of Iraq Act of 2018 and the amendment introduced by Congressman Judge Ted Poe.

This bill and amendment would require the President to impose sanctions on Iranian-backed or controlled militias that commit violence and threaten the stability of Iraq.

In addition, this bill requires the Secretary of State to publish the list of armed groups and proxy forces in Iraq receiving assistance from Iran and requires a report by the Department of State if certain specific groups meet terrorist designation parameters.
The United States must not allow Iranian influence to fill the void left by the defeated ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Emboldened and practically funded by the previous administration’s failed Iranian nuclear deal, the Iranian militias are posed to incite civil war and turn Iraq into a failed state while also spreading throughout Syria toward the Israeli territory currently threatened by Hezbollah.

Just as Iran has smuggled ballistic missiles to Yemen, Iran has begun to transfer ballistic missiles to these groups in Iraq, according to our extraordinary Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley.

I have offered an additional amendment that adds two murderous militias to the list of groups identified in H.R. 4591 who are destabilizing Iraq and Syria.

One group draws recruits from Shi’a Pakistanis living in Iran and has engaged in battle with U.S. special forces. The other groups comprises Shi’a fighters from Afghanistan.

Both groups are more than proxies. They are distinct brigades of the Islamic Republican Guard Corps—the IRGC Quds Force—and answer directly to Quds Force Commander Soleimani.

Iran is the foremost state sponsor of terrorism and H.R. 4591 allows the President and the Department of State to identify and sanction these groups in order to prevent Iran from inciting civil war and further spreading their malign regional influence.

I urge passage of 4591 as well as the rest of today’s meaningful legislation. I yield back the balance of our time as we continue a tribute to Congressman Judge Ted Poe as he is concluding his final year in Congress. Godspeed.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Kinzinger.

Mr. KINZINGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There are so many good bills here and I just want to say thank you to everybody on all sides of the aisle that’s worked to bring all these up.

I think of H. Res. 1035, which is U.S. and Liberia related. I’ve been to Liberia. It’s a fantastic country with a lot of challenges. So that’s very important.

But I do want to specifically speak on 4591, the Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act. I am a veteran of Iraq and, specifically, I can tell you I’ve operated against Iranian forces in Iraq and about a quarter of American casualties during the Iraq war are directly traced and related to Iranian action and technologies.

So they are no innocent nation. When you think about the destabilization they are doing in Syria and the ½ million dead Syrians, many of which are children, thanks mainly to Bashar al-Assad, Iran, and Russia, and so it’s time for us to stand up, especially in our ally, Iraq.

This legislation, which I worked on with Mr. Suozzi, would help prevent Iran from spreading their malign influence in the Middle East.

I would also like to briefly thank Chairman Poe, as many have, for working with us to include the important provisions from his bill, the Iranian Proxies Terrorist Sanction Act, and to H.R. 4591 and specifically for Chairman Poe’s many years of service to his country.
Following the elections in Iraq earlier this year, we saw Iranian proxies and Iraqis working on behalf of the Iranians attempting to form a coalition government in Baghdad.

As a result, Iranian-backed militias have significantly expanded in Iraq and have not only attacked U.S. forces but have targeted innocent Iraqis as well.

Just earlier this month, we saw the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad attacked and new reports are emerging that the Iranian regime has transferred ballistic missiles to these proxies in Iraq.

Not only will this kind of interference destabilize the country but it’s creating conditions for the next generation of terror.

While these developments are concerning, I am glad to see that the Iraqi population has been peacefully protesting and demanding an end to political corruption and Iranian meddling in their country.

That’s why passing this legislation is so timely. The Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act would impose sanctions such as freezing assets and travel restrictions on Iranians or any other person who threatens the peace and stability of Iraq.

Passage of this legislation ensures the Iranians are not given a free pass to meddle in yet—again, in the affairs of the Iraqi people. And I have to stress doing nothing only strengthens the Iranians and their proxies.

I think it’s important to note that the light of Iranian leadership is dimming and the light of the people of Iran is getting brighter every day. It’s just a matter of time until the Iranian people are able to throw off the tyrannical regime of Iran.

I encourage my colleagues to pass this measure and I urge for quick consideration on the House floor.

And Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Kinzinger, and thank you again for your service. You know, I would just note, and I think most on the committee know, that you got the Airman’s Medal for saving the life of a young woman who was savagely attacked. You have served with great distinction and so thank you so very much.

Mr. KINZINGER. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. I’d like to now yield to Mr. Fitzpatrick, the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I am proud to speak today in strong support for H. Res. 931, the resolution recognizing the 85th anniversary of the Ukraine famine and genocide.

Between 1932 and 1933, the Ukrainian famine, known as the Holodomor, lead to the deaths of millions of innocent Ukrainians—men, women, and children alike.

This famine was perpetrated by Joseph Stalin in an attempt to quash the nation’s independence movement and fierce opposition to collectivization.

This resolution serves as a meaningful tribute to honor those who met their demise at the hands of a brutal dictator and a brutal regime.

It also serves as a stark reminder of the horrors of communism and oppression, and a message to the world that we must never go back and that freedom and democracy must be our guide, going forward.
I am proud to stand with the Ukrainian community here at home and abroad in our continued fight against foreign aggression. The spirit of the Ukrainian people is strong and it is resilient, and it is this spirit that will overcome any adversities facing their great country.

I am thankful to my friend from Michigan, Mr. Levin, along with the other co-chairs of our Ukrainian Caucus—Ms. Captor, Mr. Harris, for introducing this honorable resolution, along with myself.

It is a pleasure serving with them to advance the cause of Ukrainian Americans across this country and across the world. We have their back.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE [presiding]. We go to Mr. Steve Chabot of Ohio.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank you for your service to this institution. For so many years now you’ve done a particularly tremendous job as chairman of this committee and thank you for your service. We will not forget. You’ll be long remembered here.

I also, as many others have, want to thank Ted Poe for his tremendous work on this committee and in Congress in general as well. You will both be missed tremendously.

As we wrap up this Congress, we have a lot of good bills before us today, and many of our members have already talked about them. I want to focus on just a couple.

First, I am co-sponsor of H. Res. 1006, which condemns the deteriorating situation in Venezuela due to the actions of President Maduro and his socialist party, and I want to thank Chairman Cook for his work on this legislation.

Maduro has uprooted any semblance of democracy from Venezuela and plunged his country into its worst economic crisis ever and many, many people are suffering tremendously as a result of that.

Conditions are so bad that over 2 million Venezuelans have fled their country, creating a humanitarian crisis throughout the region.

Maduro and his cronies are so corrupt and abusive that we have sanctioned 80-some individuals, and it’s pretty clear that many of them have committed crimes against humanity.

Venezuela, let’s remember, is right in our backyard, so we need to help make sure that this mess gets cleaned up, and sooner rather than later.

Second, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 931, which recognizes the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian famine, and I want to thank Mr. Levin for his work on this resolution.

As a co-sponsor of this legislation I think it’s vitally important that as the memory of the Soviet Union fades, we must not forget the victims of communism.

The Ukrainian famine was caused by socialist policies and Stalin’s deliberate efforts to prevent aid from reaching affected areas. Communism is and was and always will be evil and we must never forget that, particularly at a time when its running partner, its cousin—socialism—seems to be getting more and more popular, especially, unfortunately, on many college campuses in this coun-
try. We must never forget that there is a relationship between those two entities.

This resolution is also timely since Vladimir Putin continues to undermine the sovereignty of Ukraine. Like Stalin, he never really recognized Ukraine as an independent country.

The West must not let Putin succeed. The safety of the Ukrainian people and the stability of Europe as a whole requires Putin to understand that he cannot invade other countries with impunity.

Finally—and I want to thank Mr. Kinzinger and Judge Poe for their leadership on the issue of Iranian proxies in Iraq—the Preventing Destabilization of Iraq Act seeks to help meet this challenge.

Iran’s hegemonic ambitions and nefarious activity have increasingly become one of our greatest problems in the Middle East, if not the greatest obstacle to bringing stability to that troubled region.

One component of Iran’s strategy is to grow its influence: It’s the proxy forces in Iraq. These forces not only destabilize the country but also undermine our hard-won gains there.

Tehran cannot be allowed to continue to build its influence and make Iraq a client state. It’s high time that we push back harder and harder.

And I know that many people have sacrificed over there including, as was indicated before, people like Mr. Kinzinger who, literally, put their lives on the line there.

So we need to work much harder and I want to thank again the chairman for his leadership on this committee, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Are any other members seeking recognition?

Okay. 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. The measures considered en bloc, they are agreed to, and without objection, each measure in the en bloc is ordered favorably reported as amended as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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 this concludes our business today. I thank Ranking Member Engel, I thank Mr. Schneider for filling in here as ranking member for the end of the hearing, and all of the committee members for their contributions and assistance with today’s markup.

The committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:23 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]
APPENDIX

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD
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, September 27, 2018
TIME: 10:00 a.m.

MARKUP OF:

H. Res. 931, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine;

H. Res. 1006, Condemning the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused, affirming support for the legitimate National Assembly and the Supreme Court, and urging further regional action in support of democracy in Venezuela;

H. Res. 1052, Affirming United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization;

H. Res. 1055, To affirm strong United States-Liberia ties and support for democratic principles, and call for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia;

H.R. 1567, United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act;

H.R. 4591, Preventing Iranian Destabilization of Iraq Act of 2017;

H.R. 5273, Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018;

H.R. 6018, Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2018;

H.R. 6413, STOP Organ Trafficking Act; and


By Direction of the Chairman
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

Day Thursday Date 9/27/2018 Room 2172
Starting Time 10:00AM Ending Time 11:22AM
Recesses (to ) (to ) (to ) (to ) (to ) (to )

Presiding Member(s)
Chairman Edward R. Royce
Representative Christopher H. Smith

Check all of the following that apply:
Open Session [x] Executively Recorded (tape) [x]
Executive (closed) Session [ ] Stenographic Record [x]
Televised [x]

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
See attached.

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
N/A

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: (List any statements submitted for the record)
N/A

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)
Subject, Yes, Nays, Present, Not Voting
N/A

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE
or
TIME ADJOURNED 11:22AM

Full Committee Hearing Coordinator
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By unanimous consent, the Chair called up the following measures and amendments, previously provided to Members, to be considered en bloc:

1) H. Res. 931 (Levin), Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine.

2) H. Res. 1006 (Cook), Condemning the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused, affirming support for the legitimate National Assembly and the Supreme Court, and urging further regional action in support of democracy in Venezuela;
   a. Cook 64, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 1006; and
      i. Sires 22, an amendment to Cook 64.

3) H. Res. 1052 (Castro), Affirming United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization.

4) H. Res. 1055 (Donovan), To affirm strong United States-Liberia ties and support for democratic principles and call for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia.

5) H.R. 1567 (Cuellar), United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act;
   a. Castro 104, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1567.

6) H.R. 4591 (Kinzinger), Preventing Iranian Destabilization of Iraq Act of 2017;
   a. Kinzinger 35, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4591;
      i. Poe 114, an amendment to Kinzinger 35; and
      ii. Wilson 70, an amendment to Kinzinger 35.

7) H.R. 5273 (Engel), Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018;
   a. Engel 115, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 5273.

8) H.R. 6018 (McCaul), Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2018;
   a. McCaul 109, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6018; and
i. Meadows 165, an amendment to McCaul 109.

9) H.R. 6413 (Trott), STOP Organ Trafficking Act;
   a. Royce 143.

10) H.R. 6651 (Smith), PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018;
    a. Smith 113.

The measures considered en bloc were agreed to by voice vote.

By unanimous consent, each measure in the en bloc was ordered favorably reported, as amended, as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute to the House, and the Chairman was authorized to seek House consideration under suspension of the rules.

The Committee adjourned.