

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1498

To direct the President to designate an existing Federal officer to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States citizens who are hostages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2015

Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. COOK, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. PERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the President to designate an existing Federal officer to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States citizens who are hostages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hostage Recovery Im-
5 provement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDI-**
2 **NATOR.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall des-
5 ignate an existing Federal officer to coordinate efforts to
6 secure the release of United States citizens who are hos-
7 tages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism. For
8 purposes of carrying out the duties described in subsection
9 (b), such officer shall have the title of “Interagency Hos-
10 tage Recovery Coordinator”.

11 (b) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall have the fol-
12 lowing duties:

13 (1) Coordinate and direct all activities of the
14 Federal Government relating to each hostage situa-
15 tion described in subsection (a) to ensure efforts to
16 secure the release of all hostages in the hostage situ-
17 ation are properly resourced and correct lines of au-
18 thority are established and maintained.

19 (2) Establish a task force consisting of appro-
20 priate personnel of the Federal Government with re-
21 spect to each hostage situation described in sub-
22 section (a).

23 **SEC. 3. QUARTERLY REPORT.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coordinator shall submit to
25 Congress a quarterly report on each hostage situation de-

1 scribed in section 2(a) and efforts to secure the release
2 of all hostages in such hostage situation.

3 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
4 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain
5 a classified annex if necessary.

6 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that the Coordinator
8 should develop and pursue an entire range of options with
9 respect to each hostage situation described in section 2(a),
10 including kinetic and non-kinetic options.

11 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) COORDINATOR.—The term “Coordinator”
14 means the Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordi-
15 nator designated under section 1(a).

16 (2) HOSTILE GROUP.—The term “hostile
17 group” means—

18 (A) a group that is designated as a foreign
19 terrorist organization under section 219(a) of
20 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
21 1189(a));

22 (B) a group that is engaged in armed con-
23 flict with the United States; or

1 (C) any other group that the President de-
2 termines to be a hostile group for purposes of
3 this paragraph.

4 (3) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term
5 “state sponsor of terrorism”—

6 (A) means a country the government of
7 which the Secretary of State has determined,
8 for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Ad-
9 ministration Act of 1979, section 620A of the
10 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of
11 the Arms Export Control Act, or any other pro-
12 vision of law, to be a government that has re-
13 peatedly provided support for acts of inter-
14 national terrorism; and

15 (B) includes North Korea.

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