

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6506

To provide for United States actions to advance the United States-India strategic relationship.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2018

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

A BILL

To provide for United States actions to advance the United States-India strategic relationship.

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 “United States-India
5 Enhanced Cooperation Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The turmoil in the world poses a serious
9 threat to United States national security interests
10 and requires cooperation with allies and friendly na-

1 tions that are willing to work with the United States
2 in pursuit of shared objectives.

3 (2) The June 7, 2016, paragraph 17 of the
4 India-United States Joint Statement entitled “The
5 United States and India: Enduring Global Partners
6 in the 21st Century”, notes that the United States-
7 India defense relationship can be an anchor of sta-
8 bility, and given the increasingly strengthened co-
9 operation in defense, the United States recognized
10 India as a Major Defense Partner.

11 (3) As such, the United States committed to
12 continue to work toward facilitating technology shar-
13 ing with and transfer of advanced strategic military
14 capability to India on a level commensurate with
15 that of its closest allies and partners. The leaders of
16 the two countries reached an understanding under
17 which India would receive license-free access to a
18 wide range of dual-use technologies in conjunction
19 with steps that India has committed to take to ad-
20 vance its export control objectives.

21 (4) As such, in support of India’s initiative to
22 develop a domestic defense industrial capability and
23 to support integration into the global supply chain,
24 the United States committed to continuing to facili-
25 tate the export of goods and technologies, consistent

1 with United States law, for projects, programs and
2 joint ventures in support of official United States-
3 India defense and security cooperation.

4 (5) Section 1292 of the National Defense Au-
5 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C.
6 2751 note), relating to enhancing defense and secu-
7 rity cooperation with India, requests that the Sec-
8 retary of Defense and Secretary of State jointly take
9 such actions as may be necessary to recognize In-
10 dia's status as a major defense partner of the
11 United States, consistent with the June 7, 2016,
12 India-United States Joint Statement.

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

14 It is the policy of the United States—

15 (1) to approve and facilitate the transfer of ad-
16 vanced technology and strategic capability, con-
17 sistent with United States conventional arms trans-
18 fer policy, to support combined military planning
19 with India for missions such as humanitarian assist-
20 ance and disaster relief, counter piracy, freedom of
21 navigation, and maritime domain awareness mis-
22 sions, and to promote weapons systems interoper-
23 ability;

24 (2) to reassure India that the United States
25 recognizes the importance of security of supply for

1 major defense capabilities acquired from the United
2 States and its industries, and as such will endeavor,
3 consistent with United States law, to not disrupt
4 such supply;

5 (3) to collaborate with the Government of India
6 in developing mutually agreeable mechanisms to
7 verify the security of defense articles, defense serv-
8 ices, and related technology, such as appropriate
9 cyber security and end-use monitoring arrange-
10 ments, consistent with United States export control
11 laws and policy;

12 (4) to promote policies that will encourage the
13 efficient review and authorization of defense sales
14 and export to India; and

15 (5) to continue to enhance defense and security
16 cooperation with India in order to advance United
17 States interests in the South Asia and greater Indo-
18 Asia-Pacific regions.

19 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ACTIONS TO ADVANCE THE UNITED**
20 **STATES-INDIA STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP.**

21 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that the United States should take the following ac-
23 tions to advance the United States-India strategic rela-
24 tionship:

1 (1) Seek to enhance the capabilities of the
2 United States and India to address emerging com-
3 mon threats, increase security cooperation, and ex-
4 pand joint military exercises.

5 (2) Encourage and facilitate the role as priority
6 partners in the South Asia and greater Indo-Asia-
7 Pacific regions.

8 (3) Support the mutual interest in maritime se-
9 curity and maritime domain awareness, as well as
10 enhanced military cooperation in joint exercises,
11 training, and humanitarian assistance and disaster
12 relief.

13 (4) Conduct a joint assessment, led by the Sec-
14 retary of State in partnership with the Secretary of
15 Defense, of the extent to which India possesses ca-
16 pabilities to support and carry out military oper-
17 ations of mutual interest to the United States and
18 India, including an assessment of the defense export
19 control regulations and policies that need appro-
20 priate modification, in recognition of India's capa-
21 bilities and its status as a major defense partner.

22 (b) USE OF ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of State
23 shall ensure that the assessment described in subsection
24 (a)(4) is used, consistent with United States conventional
25 arms transfer policy, to inform the review by the United

1 States of requests to export defense articles, defense serv-
 2 ices, or related technology to India under the Arms Export
 3 Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), and to inform any
 4 regulatory and policy adjustments that may be appro-
 5 priate.

6 (c) FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AND EXPORT STATUS
 7 UNDER ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.—The Arms Ex-
 8 port Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in sections 3(d)(2)(B), 3(d)(3)(A)(i),
 10 3(d)(5), 21(e)(2)(A), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(2), 36(b)(6),
 11 36(c)(2)(A), 36(c)(5), 36(d)(2)(A), 62(c)(1), and
 12 63(a)(2), by inserting “India,” before “or New Zea-
 13 land” each place it appears;

14 (2) in section 3(b)(2), by inserting “the Govern-
 15 ment of India,” before “or the Government of New
 16 Zealand”; and

17 (3) in sections 21(h)(1)(A) and 21(h)(2), by in-
 18 serting “India,” before “or Israel” each place it ap-
 19 pears.

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