

Native American families desire to own their own homes just like other citizens of our nation.

Currently Native families can face up to a two year wait to purchase a home on tribal lands because of the bureaucratic red tape at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This long wait can be harmful to Native people because sellers often cannot wait for the time it takes for Bureau of Indian Affairs approval. This could result in lands within reservation borders being sold away from tribal members.

The HEARTH ACT allows tribal governments to approve trust land leases directly, significantly reducing the wait for approval and easing the home buying process for tribal families.

In the current housing market, the last thing the federal government should be doing is standing in the way of families looking to buy a home.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting homeownership for our Nation's first people, and ask that they vote yes on H.R. 205.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 205, the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership (HEARTH) Act of 2011. As a member of the Native American Caucus and a proud co-sponsor of this legislation, I believe the HEARTH Act is an important step forward in supporting tribal self-determination and self-governance.

Native American families buying homes have to go through a unique and burdensome process that involves securing approval from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to lease tribal land. This application process can take as long as two years to complete, often making the dream of owning a home on their tribal land unattainable. Sellers and mortgage lenders are usually unable or unwilling to wait this long, and buyers often resort to moving off tribal land.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) plays an important role in the education, healthcare, infrastructure maintenance and law enforcement, among other services, for Native Alaskans and American Indians. The BIA oversees more than 55 million acres of some of the most economically depressed and isolated areas of the United States and is critical in improving the quality life of its members.

The HEARTH Act is a plan for reform that will improve the efficiency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and will shift important responsibilities to tribes. Under this Act, tribes. Under this Act, tribes will develop their own regulations to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and local leaders can assume control over their own leasing processes. Families will avoid the lengthy wait and can seize the opportunity to invest in land that has been in their family and tribe for generations.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this critical legislation. This is a bill we can all support as it will improve the efficiency of one of our federal bureaus while simultaneously improving housing opportunities for Native American populations. Home ownership is an important part of the American dream, and the HEARTH Act will help hard-working American families achieve that goal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 205, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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**AMBASSADOR JAMES R. LILLEY
AND CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN J.
SOLARZ NORTH KOREA HUMAN
RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT
OF 2012**

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4240) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4240

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 "Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) and the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-346) were the product of broad, bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of human rights, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) In addition to the longstanding commitment of the United States to refugee and human rights advocacy, the United States is home to the largest Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and many in the two-million strong Korean-American community have family ties to North Korea.

(3) Although the transition to the leadership of Kim Jong-Un after the death of Kim Jong-Il has introduced new uncertainties and possibilities, the fundamental human rights and humanitarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplorable, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulnerable, and the findings in the 2004 Act and 2008 Reauthorization remain substantially accurate today.

(4) Media and nongovernmental organizations have reported a crackdown on unauthorized border crossing during the North Korean leadership transition, including authorization for on-the-spot execution of attempted defectors, as well as an increase in punishments during the 100-day official mourning period after the death of Kim Jong-Il.

(5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the United States, the Republic of Korea, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, China has continued to forcibly repatriate North Koreans, including dozens of presumed refugees who were the subject of international humanitarian appeals during February and March of 2012.

(6) The United States, which has the largest international refugee resettlement pro-

gram in the world, has resettled 128 North Koreans since passage of the 2004 Act, including 23 North Koreans in fiscal year 2011.

(7) In a career of Asia-focused public service that spanned more than half a century, including service as a senior United States diplomat in times and places where there were significant challenges to human rights, Ambassador James R. Lilley also served as a director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea until his death in 2009.

(8) Following his 18 years of service in the House of Representatives, including as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Stephen J. Solarz committed himself to, in his words, highlighting "the plight of ordinary North Koreans who are denied even the most basic human rights, and the dramatic and heart-rending stories of those who risk their lives in the struggle to escape what is certainly the world's worst nightmare", and served as co-chairman of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea until his death in 2010.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from foreign governments to allow the United States to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement in the United States, through persistent diplomacy by senior officials of the United States, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and close cooperation with its ally, the Republic of Korea; and

(2) because there are genuine refugees among North Koreans fleeing into China who face severe punishments upon their forcible return, the United States should urge the People's Republic of China to—

(A) immediately halt its forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) fulfill its obligations pursuant to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the 1995 Agreement on the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People's Republic of China to UNHCR Branch Office in the People's Republic of China; and

(C) allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) unimpeded access to North Koreans inside China to determine whether such North Koreans are refugees requiring protection.

SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.

Section 102(b)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)(1)) is amended by striking "2012" and inserting "2017".

SEC. 5. RADIO BROADCASTING TO NORTH KOREA.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, as defined in section 5(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7803(1)), a report that describes the status and content of current United States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent to which the BBG has achieved the goal of 12-hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea pursuant to section 103 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7813).

SEC. 6. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

Subsections (b)(1) and (c) of section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended by striking "2012" and inserting "2017" each place it appears.

SEC. 7. SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

Section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) by striking "2012" and inserting "2017".

SEC. 8. REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

Section 201(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2012” and inserting “2017”.

SEC. 9. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.

Section 203(c)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”; and

(2) by striking “2005 through 2012” and inserting “2013 through 2017”.

SEC. 10. ANNUAL REPORTS.

Section 305(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2012” and inserting “2017”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and to submit extraneous materials for the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4240, the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012. I would like to thank my co-author and ranking member, my good friend, Mr. BERMAN, and the dozens of bipartisan cosponsors who have joined us to continue the important human rights work that Congress began 9 years ago.

The North Korean regime remains one of the world's worst human rights abusers as the legacy of tyranny has been passed on to a new generation.

South Korea's National Human Rights Commission detailed, in a 380-page report released earlier this month, that Kim Jong-Un maintains the same hellish gulag as his father and grandfather before him.

Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children are forced into slave labor, starved, and tortured to death in isolated camps. Even outside the camps, the North Korean people enjoy no freedoms of speech, religion, press, or assembly.

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Officials crush any dissent and have reportedly authorized the on-the-spot execution of those attempting to flee the country.

A regime that maims its own people with impunity, cannot be trusted to keep its agreements with foreigners. Thus, solving the North Korean human rights issue is also an integral part of addressing the North Korean security threat.

North Korean women and girls are brutalized and trafficked in China, where they are sold into forced marriage and sexual slavery. And China, which sits on the Executive Board of the U.N.'s Refugee Protection Body, continues to forcibly repatriate North Koreans into danger.

H.R. 4240, Mr. Speaker, will continue the important bipartisan work of the North Korean Human Rights Act by extending, until the year 2017, its authorities to promote human rights, refugee protection, and freedom of information for the people of North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4240.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4240, The Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I'd like to begin by thanking the gentlelady from Florida and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership on this issue.

H.R. 4240 reauthorizes the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, along with some provisions that were included in the 2008 reauthorization. This bill, like its predecessors, is the product of a broad, bipartisan consensus regarding the atrocious human rights situation in North Korea.

This legislation continues to provide resources to assist North Korean refugees, support democracy and human rights programs, and promote freedom of information in the North. It also extends the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues—a vital position that plays a central role in advocating for improved human rights in the North.

As innocent men, women and children flee the repressive North Korean regime at great personal risk, we have a moral obligation to assist these refugees and prevent their forcible repatriation. We must continue working with our close ally South Korea, other friends in the region, and the human rights community to expose the horrendous abuses being committed in the North.

Despite North Korea's efforts to appear “strong and prosperous” this year to celebrate the 100th birthday of the country's founder, vast numbers of its citizens continue to face starvation. Sadly, the North Korean regime's misguided priorities—pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into its so-called space program, its nuclear programs and its massive military—only underscore its cold-hearted callousness and blatant disregard for its own people.

For the vast majority of North Koreans, life remains as bleak as ever, with the average citizen enjoying no real political, religious, or personal freedoms. Hundreds of thousands of North Korean political prisoners remain imprisoned in gulags.

Some North Koreans endeavor to escape their country by any means possible—even if it means crossing into China, where many refugees are forced into prostitution and servitude. Others are sent back across the border to face torture or even death.

This bill calls on China to halt its forcible repatriation of North Koreans and allow the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees unimpeded access to North Koreans inside China to determine whether fleeing North Koreans require protection.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4240 is an important demonstration of our bipartisan commitment to assist the North Korean people, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), the ranking member of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my good friend, the chairwoman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as our ranking member, Mr. BERMAN, for bringing this legislation. And I am in full support, and I do associate myself with the comments and the statements made earlier by our great chairman as well as our ranking member, Mr. BERMAN.

I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4240, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes. First, I want to thank House Foreign Affairs Chairwoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida and Ranking Member HOWARD BERMAN of California for their leadership on this very critical issue. I also want to thank all the cosponsors and supporters of this legislation. This is an important piece of legislation because of the humanitarian assistance the U.S. provides North Korean refugees and for the promotion of democracy and freedom in North Korea.

H.R. 4240, or the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012, will allow the U.S. to continue to work with foreign countries in the assistance and migration of North Korean refugees to the U.S. It will also urge foreign countries, especially China, to stop the punishment and return of North Korean refugees. Importantly, H.R. 4240 will assist those who are providing humanitarian aid to North Koreans who are outside of North Korea.

Given that the U.S. has one of the largest Korean populations outside of the Korean Peninsula with millions who have ties to North Korea, the U.S. must continue its firm commitment to the aid of refugees and advocacy of human rights for the victims in North Korea. Even after the death Kim Jong-Il, North Korea continues to deprive its people of the most basic human rights. Both the international media and nongovernmental organizations continue to report of the severe military crackdown and brutal punishment for those who attempt to defect from North Korea.

Although it is estimated that there are less than 200 North Korean refugees who have resettled in the U.S. since 2004, I strongly believe that we must empower the North Korean people by continuing to promote democratic values and support of human rights programs.

On a personal note, I think it is only appropriate that this legislation is named in honor of the late Ambassador Lilley and the late Congressman Solarz who were the champions of human rights issues for the people of North

Koreans. I even had the privilege to work closely with the late Congressman Solarz, who was Chairman of the East Asian and Pacific Affairs, the same subcommittee of which I am the Ranking Member today. I am grateful for his leadership and understanding of the Asia Pacific region.

Just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant in helping the people of North Korea who struggle daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the North Korean regime.

Again, I thank Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN for their leadership and I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 4240.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4240, the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012. I commend Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN and the members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for bringing this important measure to the floor.

Ambassador Lilley, as director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and Congressman Solarz, as chairman of the House subcommittee on East Asia and later as co-chairman of the Committee on Human Rights in North Korea, refused to stand by silently as the North Korean government oppressed, abused and murdered its own people. Their leadership and advocacy helped to raise awareness about the deplorable conditions endured by the North Korean people, including the government's practice of executing on-the-spot attempted defectors.

This resolution encourages the United States government to continue working with foreign governments and with the Peoples Republic of China in particular, to help resettle refugees who escape North Korea. Additionally, the bill recognizes the efforts undertaken in North Korea by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and encourages the board to meet its goal of broadcasting 12 hours of daily radio transmissions into that country.

The United States has the largest international refugee resettlement program in the world. Since this Act was originally passed, 128 North Koreans have been successfully resettled, including 23 in the last year. The success of this program is a fitting tribute to the memory and work of Ambassador Lilley and Congressman Solarz.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4240, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 568) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 568

Whereas since at least the late 1980s, Iran has engaged in a sustained and well-documented pattern of illicit and deceptive activities to acquire a nuclear capability;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has adopted multiple resolutions since 2006 demanding the full and sustained suspension of all uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities by the Iranian Government and its full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on all outstanding issues related to its nuclear activities, particularly those concerning the possible military dimensions of its nuclear program;

Whereas Iran remains in violation of all of the aforementioned United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas, on November 8, 2011, the IAEA issued an extensive report that—

(1) documents "serious concerns regarding possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme";

(2) states that "Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear device"; and

(3) states that the efforts described in paragraphs (1) and (2) may be ongoing;

Whereas as of November 2008, Iran had produced, according to the IAEA—

(1) approximately 630 kilograms of uranium-235 enriched to 3.5 percent; and

(2) no uranium-235 enriched to 20 percent;

Whereas as of November 2011, Iran had produced, according to the IAEA—

(1) nearly 5,000 kilograms of uranium-235 enriched to 3.5 percent; and

(2) 79.7 kilograms of uranium-235 enriched to 20 percent;

Whereas, on January 9, 2011, IAEA inspectors confirmed that the Iranian Government had begun enrichment activities at the Fordow site, including possibly enrichment of uranium-235 to 20 percent;

Whereas Iran has repeatedly refused requests by IAEA inspectors to visit its Parchin military facility, a suspected site of Iranian activities related to testing of a nuclear weapon;

Whereas if Iran were successful in acquiring a nuclear weapon capability, it would likely spur other countries in the region to consider developing their own nuclear weapons capabilities;

Whereas, on December 6, 2011, Prince Turki al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia stated that if international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons fail, "we must, as a duty to our country and people, look into all options we are given, including obtaining these weapons ourselves";

Whereas top Iranian leaders have repeatedly threatened the existence of the State of Israel, pledging to "wipe Israel off the map";

Whereas the Department of State—

(1) has designated Iran as a "state sponsor of terrorism" since 1984; and

(2) has characterized Iran as the "most active state sponsor of terrorism";

Whereas Iran has provided weapons, training, funding, and direction to terrorist groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Shiite militias in Iraq that are responsible for the murders of hundreds of American forces and innocent civilians;

Whereas, on July 28, 2011, the Department of the Treasury charged that the Government of Iran had forged a "secret deal" with al Qaeda to facilitate the movement of al Qaeda fighters and funding through Iranian territory;

Whereas in October 2011, senior leaders of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force were implicated in a terrorist plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States on United States soil;

Whereas, on December 26, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution denouncing the serious human rights abuses occurring in Iran, including torture, cruel and degrading treatment in detention, the targeting of human rights defenders, violence against women, and "the systematic and serious restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly", as well as severe restrictions on the rights to "freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief";

Whereas the Governments of the P5+1 nations (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany) have made repeated efforts to engage the Iranian Government in dialogue about Iran's nuclear program and its international commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas talks between the P5+1 and Iran regarding Iran's nuclear program resumed on April 14, 2012, in Istanbul, Turkey, and the parties agreed to meet again on May 23, 2012, in Baghdad, Iraq;

Whereas in the 2006 State of the Union Address, President Bush stated that "The Iranian Government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions, and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons.";

Whereas, on March 31, 2010, President Obama stated that the "consequences of a nuclear-armed Iran are unacceptable";

Whereas in his State of the Union Address on January 24, 2012, President Obama stated, "Let there be no doubt: America is determined to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and I will take no options off the table to achieve that goal.";

Whereas Secretary of Defense Panetta stated, in December 2011, that it was unacceptable for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons, reaffirmed that all options were on the table to thwart Iran's nuclear weapons efforts, and vowed that if the United States gets "intelligence that they are proceeding with developing a nuclear weapon then we will take whatever steps necessary to stop it";

Whereas, on December 1, 2011, Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon issued a joint statement in Washington, DC, which emphasized that "Iran is the greatest challenge we face today in the Middle East" and that "[c]ontinued efforts by the international community are critical to bringing about change in Iranian behavior and preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capability.";

Whereas the Department of Defense's January 2012 Strategic Guidance stated that United States defense efforts in the Middle East would be aimed "to prevent Iran's development of a nuclear weapons capability and counter its destabilizing policies";