

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

I rise in strong support of S. 2318, the Department of State Rewards Program Update and Technical Corrections Act of 2012. This bipartisan bill is Senator KERRY's Senate companion to H.R. 4077, the House bill introduced 2 months prior by my good friend from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Since the 1980s, the State Department has had authority to offer rewards leading to the arrests and convictions for international narcotics trafficking, acts of terrorism, and war crimes. These reward programs have proven to be effective tools for disrupting and dismantling terrorist cells and drug cartels around the world, enjoying both high-profile and quiet successes in locating many dangerous individuals, including Ramzi Yousef, one of the perpetrators of the 1993 World Trade Center attack, Saddam Hussein's sons, and narcotrafficking commanders of the FARC in Colombia.

This bill is a critical tool in our ongoing efforts to locate Joseph Kony, the murderous head of the predatory Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, in Central Africa. This bill is a responsible, bipartisan bill that will significantly enhance our ability to fight transnational organized crime and grave human rights abuses. I urge unanimous support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 2318. I want to join my chairman in commending the author of this legislation, Senator KERRY, and my friend and colleague, Ed ROYCE, the incoming chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who authored the House version of this bill and fought long and hard for it.

The chairman has described the legislation and the existing law. The bill makes two key changes in existing law. They're small, but they're very important modifications to the rewards program.

It would authorize payments for the arrest or conviction of those engaged in transnational criminal activity, including intellectual property, piracy, money laundering, trafficking in persons and arms trafficking.

Transnational organized crime poses a growing threat to U.S. economic and national security interests. According to U.N. estimates, these criminal enterprises generate hundreds of billions of dollars in illicit revenues every year. Expanding the rewards program to cover this activity is manifestly in our interest.

Second, this legislation would expand the universe of individuals targeted for their involvement in gross violations of international humanitarian law, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Specifically, this bill would cover all individuals indicted by international tribunals for violations of international humani-

tarian law, not just those indicted by the existing tribunals for Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and the former Yugoslavia. The change is strongly supported by the Departments of Defense and State.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, and the author of the original House-side version of this bill.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentlelady.

And I do think it's important, as we move forward here, to expand the State Department's rewards program. We have found a technique that works; and if we can deploy this in order to bring Joseph Kony to the bar of justice for the mass killings that he's committed with the Lord's Resistance Army, or if we can use it to bring to the bar of justice some of the international crime figures that would be turned in under this bill, then it could be very, very beneficial.

The bill has already passed the House. It was included as a provision in the State Department authorization bill that the House Foreign Affairs Committee moved earlier this year. I think it's regrettable that the Senate chose not to act on the House's comprehensive State Department authorization bill; but with today's action, this bill can now go to the President's desk for signature where it promises to have an immediate impact.

The House companion bill that I introduced, H.R. 4077, has enjoyed very strong bipartisan support, and I want to thank Chairman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. I want to thank Ranking Member HOWARD BERMAN and others for the support they've given to this measure.

As has been explained, this rewards program, to date, has had some very, very successful cases here; but it's been targeted mostly on those involved in drug trafficking, occasionally on terrorists.

Earlier this year, our subcommittee held a hearing where the State Department testified that one captured target, one narcoterrorist told DEA agents that he could no longer trust anyone in his organization after a reward was offered on his head.

□ 1830

He said, I felt like a hunted man.

And so he was turned in. Well, that was the plan—to make him feel like a hunted man, to make him feel like he could not trust anyone in his organization.

This bill would expand this program to additionally target those transnational organized criminals, those wanted for the most serious human rights abuses. Today, unfortunately, those involved in that line of work are diversifying. They're looking

to sell anything to anybody. It could be arms. It could be intellectual property. It's even people. The overlap between the networks employed by criminals and employed by terrorists is growing. So this legislation helps us keep pace. And, very importantly, the legislation also allows the rewards program to target those wanted for genocide, to target those wanted for war crimes, for crimes against humanity—again, the world's worst human rights abusers.

The target of the new war crimes authority would be killers like Joseph Kony and the top commanders of the Lord's Resistance Army. This group has terrorized across Central Africa for over two decades with unspeakable crimes committed against children such as amputations committed against children, taking child soldiers, taking sex slaves. In accordance with U.S. policy, a small team of U.S. troops are currently in the field helping local forces hunt this killer. Our U.S. troops believe that a rewards program aimed at Kony could help generate intelligence and bolster their efforts. They are asking for this. They think this can make a difference on the ground. Let's answer their call and send this bill to the President for his signature.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

Mr. BERMAN. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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, S. 2318.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

STATE AND PROVINCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 44) granting the consent of Congress to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 44

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.

Congress consents to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding entered into between States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wisconsin, and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan. The compact is substantially as follows:

“ARTICLE I—PURPOSE AND AUTHORITIES

“The State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as the ‘compact’, is made and entered into by and among such of the jurisdictions as shall enact or adopt this compact, hereinafter referred to as ‘participating jurisdictions’. For the purposes of this compact, the term ‘jurisdictions’ may include any or all of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wisconsin, and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, and such other States and provinces as may hereafter become a party to this compact. The term ‘States’ means the several States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and all territorial possessions of the United States. The term ‘Province’ means the 10 political units of government within Canada.

“The purpose of this compact is to provide for the possibility of mutual assistance among the participating jurisdictions in managing any emergency or disaster when the affected jurisdiction or jurisdictions ask for assistance, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, manmade disaster or civil emergency aspects of resources shortages.

“This compact also provides for the process of planning mechanisms among the agencies responsible and for mutual cooperation, including civil emergency preparedness exercises, testing, or other training activities using equipment and personnel simulating performance of any aspect of the giving and receiving of aid by participating jurisdictions or subdivisions of participating jurisdictions during emergencies, with such actions occurring outside emergency periods.

“ARTICLE II—GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION

“Each participating jurisdiction entering into this compact recognizes that many emergencies may exceed the capabilities of a participating jurisdiction and that intergovernmental cooperation is essential in such circumstances. Each participating jurisdiction further recognizes that there will be emergencies that may require immediate access and present procedures to apply outside resources to make a prompt and effective response to such an emergency because few, if any, individual jurisdictions have all the resources they need in all types of emergencies or the capability of delivering resources to areas where emergencies exist.

“On behalf of the participating jurisdictions in the compact, the legally designated official who is assigned responsibility for emergency management is responsible for formulation of the appropriate inter-jurisdictional mutual aid plans and procedures necessary to implement this compact, and for recommendations to the participating jurisdiction concerned with respect to the amendment of any statutes, regulations, or ordinances required for that purpose.

“ARTICLE III—PARTICIPATING JURISDICTION RESPONSIBILITIES

“(a) FORMULATE PLANS AND PROGRAMS.—It is the responsibility of each participating jurisdiction to formulate procedural plans and programs for inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the performance of the responsibilities listed in this section. In formulating and implementing such plans and programs the participating jurisdictions, to the extent practical, may—

“(1) share and review individual jurisdiction hazards analyses that are available and determine all those potential emergencies the participating jurisdictions might jointly suffer, whether due to natural disaster, technological hazard, man-made disaster or emergency aspects of resource shortages;

“(2) share emergency operations plans, procedures, and protocols established by each of the participating jurisdictions before entering into this compact;

“(3) share policies and procedures for resource mobilization, tracking, demobilization, and reimbursement;

“(4) consider joint planning, training, and exercises;

“(5) assist with alerts, notifications, and warnings for communities adjacent to or crossing participating jurisdiction boundaries;

“(6) consider procedures to facilitate the movement of evacuees, refugees, civil emergency personnel, equipment, or other resources into or across boundaries, or to a designated staging area when it is agreed that such movement or staging will facilitate civil emergency operations by the affected or participating jurisdictions; and

“(7) provide, to the extent authorized by law, for temporary suspension of any statutes or ordinances that impeded the implementation of responsibilities described in this section.

“(b) REQUEST ASSISTANCE.—The authorized representative of a participating jurisdiction may request assistance of another participating jurisdiction by contacting the authorized representative of that jurisdiction. These provisions only apply to requests for assistance made by and to authorized representatives. Requests may be verbal or in writing. If verbal, the request must be confirmed in writing within 15 days of the verbal request. Requests must provide the following information:

“(1) A description of the emergency service function for which assistance is needed and of the mission or missions, including but not limited to fire services, emergency medical, transportation, communications, public works and engineering, building inspection, planning and information assistance, mass care, resource support, health and medical services, and search and rescue.

“(2) The amount and type of personnel, equipment, materials, and supplies needed and a reasonable estimate of the length of time they will be needed.

“(3) The specific place and time for staging of the assisting participating jurisdictions’s response and a point of contact at the location.

“(c) CONSULTATION AMONG PARTICIPATING JURISDICTION OFFICIALS.—There shall be periodic consultation among the authorized representatives who have assigned emergency management responsibilities.

“ARTICLE IV—LIMITATION

“It is recognized that any participating jurisdiction that agrees to render mutual aid or conduct exercises and training for mutual aid will respond as soon as possible. It is also recognized that the participating jurisdiction rendering aid may withhold or recall resources to provide reasonable protection for itself, at its discretion. To the extent au-

thorized by law, each participating jurisdiction will afford to the personnel of the emergency contingent of any other participating jurisdiction while operating within its jurisdiction limits under the terms and conditions of this agreement and under the operational control of an officer of the requesting participating jurisdiction the same treatment as is afforded similar or like human resources of the participating jurisdiction in which they are performing emergency services. Staff comprising the emergency contingent continue under the command and control of their regular leaders but the organizational units come under the operational control of the emergency services authorities of the participating jurisdiction receiving assistance. These conditions may be activated, as needed, by the participating jurisdiction that is to receive assistance or upon commencement of exercises or training for mutual aid and continue as long as the exercises or training for mutual aid are in progress, the emergency or disaster remains in effect or loaned resources remain in the receiving participating jurisdictions, whichever is longer. The receiving participating jurisdiction is responsible for informing the assisting participating jurisdiction when services will no longer be required.

“ARTICLE V—LICENSES AND PERMITS

“Whenever a person holds a license, certificate, or other permit issued by any participating jurisdiction evidencing the meeting of qualifications for professional, mechanical, or other skills, and when such assistance is requested by the receiving participating jurisdiction, such person is deemed to be licensed, certified, or permitted by the jurisdiction requesting assistance to render aid involving such skill to meet an emergency or disaster, subject to such limitations and conditions as the requesting jurisdiction prescribes by Executive order or otherwise.

“ARTICLE VI—LIABILITY

“Any person or entity of a participating jurisdiction rendering aid in another jurisdiction pursuant to this compact is considered an agent of the requesting jurisdiction for tort liability and immunity purposes. Any person or entity rendering aid in another jurisdiction pursuant to this compact is not liable on account of any act or omission in good faith on the part of such forces while so engaged or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith. Good faith in this article does not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

“ARTICLE VII—SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS

“Because it is probable that the pattern and detail of the compact for mutual aid among 2 or more participating jurisdictions may differ from that among the participating jurisdictions that are party to this compact, this compact contains elements of a broad base common to all participating jurisdictions, and nothing in this compact precludes any participating jurisdiction from entering into supplementary agreements with another jurisdiction or affects any other agreements already in force among participating jurisdictions.

“Supplementary agreements may include, but are not limited to, provisions for evacuation and reception of injured and other persons and the exchange of medical, fire, public utility, reconnaissance, welfare, transportation and communications personnel, equipment, and supplies.

“ARTICLE VIII—WORKERS’ COMPENSATION AND DEATH BENEFITS

“Each participating jurisdiction shall provide, in accordance with its own laws, for the payment of workers’ compensation and death benefits to injured members of the

emergency contingent of that participating jurisdiction and to representatives of deceased members of those forces if the members sustain injuries or are killed while rendering aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within their own jurisdiction.

“ARTICLE IX—REIMBURSEMENT

“Any participating jurisdiction rendering aid in another jurisdiction pursuant to this compact shall, if requested, be reimbursed by the participating jurisdiction receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in, the operation of any equipment and the provision of any service in answering a request for aid and for the costs incurred in connection with those requests. An aiding participating jurisdiction may assume in whole or in part any such loss, damage, expense, or other cost or may loan such equipment or donate such services to the receiving participating jurisdiction without charge or cost. Any 2 or more participating jurisdictions may enter into supplementary agreements establishing a different allocation of costs among those jurisdictions. Expenses under article VIII are not reimbursable under this section.

“ARTICLE X—IMPLEMENTATION

“(a) This compact is effective upon its execution or adoption by any 1 State and 1 province, and is effective as to any other jurisdiction upon its execution or adoption thereby: subject to approval or authorization by the United States Congress, if required, and subject to enactment of provincial or State legislation that may be required for the effectiveness of the Memorandum of Understanding.

“(b) Additional jurisdictions may participate in this compact upon execution or adoption thereof.

“(c) Any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this compact, but the withdrawal does not take effect until 30 days after the governor or premier of the withdrawing jurisdiction has given notice in writing of such withdrawal to the governors or premiers of all other participating jurisdictions. The action does not relieve the withdrawing jurisdiction from obligations assumed under this compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

“(d) Duly authenticated copies of this compact in the French and English languages and of such supplementary agreements as may be entered into shall, at the time of their approval, be deposited with each of the participating jurisdictions.

“ARTICLE XI—SEVERABILITY

“This compact is construed to effectuate the purposes stated in Article I. If any provision of this compact is declared unconstitutional or the applicability of the compact to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability of the compact to other persons and circumstances are not affected.

“ARTICLE XII—CONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE

“The validity of the arrangements and agreements consented to in this compact shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference in form or language as may be adopted by the various states and provinces.”

SEC. 2. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.

The validity of the arrangements consented to by this Act shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference in their form or language as adopted by the States and provinces.

SEC. 3. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) 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 their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on this joint resolution.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support today of S.J. Res. 44, “Granting the Consent of Congress to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding”, a bill introduced by Senator KOHL of Wisconsin.

This bill is non-controversial and passed the Senate in September under unanimous consent with the full support of the National Emergency Management Association.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S.J. Res. 44 gives our northern states the ability to enter into an agreement with Canadian provinces to facilitate cross border emergency management assistance through mutual aid.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide mutual assistance among entities that have entered into these agreements for the management of any emergency or disaster when requested.

This bill will allow states to coordinate relief efforts with their Canadian counterparts in order to better respond to any disaster that may impact both jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, my Congressional district is very familiar with the financial and emotional impact that a natural disaster can cause to our communities.

We must ensure that we leverage all of our resources to better prepare, coordinate, and respond to any such disasters when they arise.

I strongly support the passage of this legislation and look forward to the President signing it into law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of S.J. Res. 44, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution provides the consent of Congress for a Memorandum of Understanding reached among a number U.S. states and Canadian provinces to provide for mutual assistance in managing an emergency or disaster.

This MOU, which includes states in the upper Midwest and the provinces of central Canada, is very similar to existing cross-border agreements in the Northeast and Pacific Northwest.

These agreements provide for the sharing of personnel, equipment and other resources in an emergency or disaster, whether natural or man-made.

In the past, they have provided a framework for U.S. crews to help their Canadian counterparts clear roads after blizzards and to deploy search and rescue teams.

Mr. Speaker, as all of us know, disasters do not respect political boundaries, and it is in our interest to allow our states to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts with our close friends and allies to the north.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

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 joint resolution, S.J. Res. 44.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3159, de novo;

H.R. 4057, de novo;

S. 3202, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FOREIGN AID TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3159) to direct the President, in consultation with the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Defense, to establish guidelines for United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.