

combating anti-Semitism. They work at their own expense. These are very, very dedicated individuals and their work is supported by a highly professional staff.

Again, I would ask Members to read their reports. They are among the best reports that have been produced anywhere in Washington. They are accurately posting what is going on, and then they go into great depth as to what some of the remedies ought to be.

I want to thank, again, Chairman WOLF for his extraordinary leadership for 34 years as a Member of Congress in combating all forms of human rights abuse, especially religious persecution. This is just another manifestation of his extraordinary leadership.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support to H.R. 4653, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014.

I support this bipartisan legislation which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for five years.

First created in 1998, USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan Federal government commission that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations based on international standards and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to have religious freedom then it is important that we protect it. Everywhere we look, the choice of worship is being challenged.

For example, we are reminded that significant threats to religious freedom persist across the globe.

In Iraq the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is gaining territory in Iraq and threatening the very existence of ancient faith communities in the region.

In addition to the crisis in Iraq, religious minorities are marginalized and imperiled in Egypt and Syria; the government of Vietnam severely restricts religious activities of all faiths, as does the government of China; and religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyya Muslims face governmental and social harassment in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

Since its inception, USCIRF has been an invaluable watchdog for global religious freedom conditions.

USCIRF commissioners are routinely called upon to testify before Congress and provide expert policy recommendations on how to most effectively advance this fundamental human right in U.S. foreign policy.

Religious freedom is America's first freedom, part of its history and identity as a nation. It also is a core human right recognized by international law and treaty; a necessary component of U.S. foreign policy and America's commitment to defending democracy and freedom globally; and a vital element of national security, critical to ensuring a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable world.

USCIRF champions this issue both at home and abroad and its voice is needed as much today as it has ever been.

I urge you to join me in cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize USCIRF.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4653, 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.

#### SUSPENSION OF EXIT PERMITS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 588) concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 588

Whereas according to UNICEF, over 4,000,000 orphans are estimated to be living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United States has made significant financial investments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, providing an estimated \$758,102,000 in development, humanitarian, and security assistance, including peacekeeping activities, in fiscal year 2013;

Whereas cyclical and violent conflict has plagued the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the mid-1990s;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State, the policy of the Administration toward the Democratic Republic of the Congo is "focused on helping the country become a nation that . . . provides for the basic needs of its citizens";

Whereas the United Nations has recognized a child's right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is widely recognized as an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with family reunification and prevention of abandonment;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the Congolese Ministry of Interior and Security, General Direction of Migration, informed the United States Embassy in Kinshasa that effective September 25, 2013, they had suspended issuance of exit permits to adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, affecting hundreds of children;

Whereas there are American families with finalized adoptions in the Democratic Repub-

lic of the Congo and the necessary legal paperwork and visas ready to travel home with these children but are currently unable to do so; and

Whereas on December 19, 2013, the Congolese Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Security, and the General Direction of Migration confirmed to members of the United States Department of State that the current suspension on the issuance of exit permits continues: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) affirms that all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family;

(2) recognizes the importance of ensuring that international adoptions of all children are conducted in an ethical and transparent manner;

(3) expresses concern over the increasing number of new adoption cases that have been opened and the impact on children and families of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's suspension of exit permits; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Congolese Government—

(A) resume issuing exit permits for all children that have been adopted, and continue processing adoptions that are already underway;

(B) expedite the processing of those adoptions which involve medically fragile children; and

(C) encourages continued dialogue and cooperation between the United States Department of State and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry adoption process and ensure the welfare of all children adopted from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I speak in strong support of the Peterson resolution, H. Res. 588, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

Last year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspended the issuance of exit permits for Congolese children who were adopted by foreign parents, impacting hundreds of U.S. families.

The suspension means that Congolese children adopted by American parents cannot leave the country to go to their new homes, even though the parents have been officially declared the legal guardians under Congolese law. What is more, despite the exit permit suspension, Congolese courts have continued processing new adoptions, leading to a further backlog of adopted children who are unable to leave the country.

It is estimated that over 900 American families are caught up in varying degrees and stages of this adoption limbo—breaking many, many hearts. This is a deplorable situation for these children and for their distraught families. The DRC has not offered a clear

explanation for the suspension. The government has provided no evidence of widespread abuse in the adoption process.

The Peterson resolution underscores the importance of an ethical and transparent adoption process, and there are currently robust procedures in place for ensuring that these children are, indeed, orphaned and going to safe homes.

Ultimately, the DRC is entitled to amend its adoption process in going forward, but once the parents' legal guardianships are approved and established by the Congolese courts, the government should allow these children to depart the DRC with their adoptive moms and dads. All children deserve loving homes with moms and dads.

I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, COLLIN PETERSON, for authoring this important measure, which has strong bipartisan support. Mr. PETERSON has always been a consistent voice in support of human dignity and of the least and littlest among us, consistently defending the human person from the womb to the tomb.

At the full committee markup, several adoptive parents who were denied the requisite permission to bring their sons or daughters home were in attendance.

They, COLLIN, when we went down and spoke to them, told many of us how incredibly grateful they are to you for your leadership and your compassion and for your authorship, especially, of this important resolution.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the committee—Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and subcommittee Ranking Member KAREN BASS—for their leadership in marking up this resolution at both the subcommittee and committee levels and for helping to get it to the floor. I also thank ERIC CANTOR and the Speaker for ensuring that it was up for consideration today.

Again, more than 900 American families from across the U.S. and their Representatives in Congress are watching this very closely. Indeed, in April, 170 Members of Congress wrote and asked the DRC Government to lift the exit permit suspension.

When Secretary Kerry visited the Congo in May, he personally raised the issue with President Kabila. I also call on President Obama to raise this issue personally when he and President Kabila meet at the gathering of African heads of state here in Washington during the first week of August.

Finally, I want to say a word to those parents who have endured not only the burdens that are financial, but that are primarily emotional in being separated from the children they have graciously welcomed into their lives.

Your hardship and pain is deeply understood by my colleagues and me, as well as by our staff members, many of whom have worked not only on this resolution, but who have also pushed

our State Department and the Government of the DRC to resolve this important issue. Please continue to persevere. Don't give up hope. You will get to love and to have those wonderful children in your homes.

I also want to let the parents know that our Africa Subcommittee plans to hold another hearing to address the growing crisis of orphans in Africa to which adoption is one of the very important durable remedies, and we specifically intend to address the situation that you are confronting with your children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I would hope that Congressman PETERSON would lead off that testimony, again, in having been the man, the person in Congress, walking point on this very important issue.

Our approval today of House Resolution 588, with support across party lines, will send a strong signal to Kinshasa that we need to unite these affected families. They shouldn't be separated from these kids. They have done everything by the book, and they ought to be with their loving parents.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chair ROYCE, the subcommittee Chair CHRIS SMITH, and Ranking Members ENGEL and BASS for their support of this legislation.

I first heard about this problem when a constituent from my district, Kristin Zeidler of Montevideo, called my office to explain her family's situation.

Kristin and her husband, Gregg, adopted a 4-year-old girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Their adoption has been recognized by both the United States Government and the Congolese Government since December of 2012, but they are not being allowed to bring this little girl home.

That is because, in September 2013, adoptions from the DRC were effectively suspended as the Congolese immigration authorities stopped issuing exit permits to adopted children. The Zeidler family has been fighting for the last year and a half to bring their little girl home.

This is just one example of more than 800 Congolese children and their adoptive American families who are caught up in the ongoing adoption crisis in the DRC.

Just to put this into context, this is over 10 percent of the total number of children who were adopted internationally by American families last year worldwide. The majority of the impacted cases are in their final stages and are merely awaiting the last step to bring home their legally adopted children.

This legislation takes a pragmatic approach, seeking to keep both sides at the table and to lead us towards a positive resolution. The resolution recognizes the Congolese Government's concerns about the ethical and trans-

parent adoption process, and it respectfully requests that the issuance of exit permits and the adoption process resume.

Most importantly, H.R. 588 encourages a continued dialogue between our two countries on this issue. I hope that our mutual interests in the welfare of these children can lead us to a solution.

Turmoil in the region makes official estimates difficult, but we know there are millions of orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With hundreds of American families like the Zeidlers being impacted by the suspension, we have a responsibility to act. A child's right to a family is a basic human right that is worthy of protection.

I am leading a letter with Representatives EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, MICHELE BACHMANN, and TRENT FRANKS to President Obama, asking him to address this issue when he meets with President Kabila at the United States-Africa Leaders Summit here in Washington, D.C., next month. I urge my colleagues who support this resolution today to also consider signing the letter.

Once again, I am very grateful to committee Chairman ROYCE and to subcommittee Chairman SMITH for their attention to this important issue, and I am also grateful for the support of the Adoption Caucus co-chairs—Congresswoman BACHMANN and Congressman BASS—and of Ranking Member ENGEL.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I have several speakers who want to be here, but they are not physically present on the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 on this important resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, you have heard today about the devastating effects of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's decision to suspend exit permits for internationally adopted children. I've met with the American families who, as a result of this action, cannot welcome their adopted son or daughter into their home. I've seen their heartbreak.

One family, the Weavers, live in my district. In 2012, James and Olivia Weaver began the process of adopting little Wilfride, a gregarious five-year-old girl with a heartwarming smile. Her birth mother had abandoned her at a local orphanage.

The Weavers were overjoyed when, after nine long months, a Congolese court declared them Wilfride's legal parents. They quickly made preparations for their new daughter to join them and their two other daughters in Chino Hills, California.

But one month after the court's declaration, the Congolese Government suspended exit permits for children like Wilfride—meaning this little girl has had to continue living in an orphanage for the last 10 months. All this despite having a loving home in California that desperately wants to take her in.

I have been to the Congo many times. I understand the exceptional deprivation of orphans there. The Congolese Government should be helping, and not hindering, their transition to a good home.

I should add that, parents with completed adoptions in the DRC are legally responsible for their child's wellbeing—and are reportedly paying on average \$500 a month in child support, in addition to healthcare expenses. I have serious concerns that the DRC Government may have perverse financial incentives to postpone resolving this issue.

I sincerely hope that this is not contributing to the Congo's delay. The government must allow these children to make their way to the homes that are anxiously awaiting their arrival. I want to thank Rep. PETERSON and Chairman SMITH for their hard work on this difficult issue, and I urge Members to support this important resolution to encourage the Congolese government to do the right thing.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 588, which expresses the strong opposition of the House to the current practice of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) of suspending the issuance of exit visas for Congolese children adopted by loving American families.

On September 27, 2013, the Congolese Government inexplicably and inexcusably suspended the issuance of exit permits to children who were seeking to depart and begin new and more hopeful lives in the country of their adoptive parents.

All children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family.

It is unjust, cruel, and inhumane to punish innocent children for actions they did not commit and had no control over.

UNICEF estimates that there are over four million orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 800,000 of which are double orphans, meaning that they have lost both of their parents. In many cases entire families have been decimated by violence.

Thus, if these innocent children are to have any chance for a normal life, there is a major need for international adoptions.

The recent action by the DRC Government jeopardizes both the adoption process and the long term safety of these children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few nations with more persons willing and eager to open their homes and their hearts to the orphaned children of the DRC.

There are, right at this moment, scores of American citizens currently in the DRC who are being forced to remain in the country for months while they wait for the government to approve exit permits for their adopted children. These delays serve no useful purpose and unnecessarily impede the children's adjustment to their new life and brighter future in America,

including enrolling in school, adapting to the culture, and learning the language.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Government of the DRC are particularly disturbing given the fact that the United States is one of the DRC's largest and most generous supporters, as evidenced by the estimated \$274 million in bilateral aid \$165 million in emergency humanitarian assistance it provided in fiscal year 2014.

I agree that it ought to be the policy of the United States to help the Democratic Republic of Congo "focus on helping the country become a nation that provides for the basic needs of its citizens."

That is why the government of the DRC must discontinue its current practice of needlessly delaying or suspending the issuance of exit visas to children so they can be united with their adoptive families who will love and cherish them and provide for their basic needs.

H. Res. 588 calls upon the U.S. Government to recognize a child's rights and ask the Congolese government to:

1. Resume processing and issuing exit permits;

2. Prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions that occurred before the suspension; and

3. Expedite the processing of children who are deemed medically fragile.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the pain and anxiety of one Texas family resulting from the DRC Government's arbitrary suspension of exit visas for adopted children.

The mother of this family wrote my office yesterday. This is what she said:

I am writing today to inform you of the tragic situation my family is in with our legally adopted children not being allowed to come home from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our sweet children, Josias (18 months) and Mercy (20 months), were adopted over a year ago and have had U.S. visas since December 2013.

Sadly, they are still waiting for us to come get them and bring them home because the Congolese government is not allowing any adopted children to leave the country to be united with their families.

In September 2013, the DRC government issued a suspension on the issuance of exit letters for all internationally adopted children, initially claiming the suspension would last "up to a year."

They have now indicated the suspension will likely go on much longer and that we may not ever be granted an exit letter for our children.

This has been a heartbreaking situation for our family as each day that our children are stuck in the DRC their lives are in danger.

Several children have died of malaria during the suspension and many more have become very ill due to unsanitary living conditions and limited access to medical care and their lives are now in jeopardy.

Adoption is an important tool for protecting children and if the only barrier preventing these children from going home is signature on an exit visa, then the United States should stand with the children and insist that the government of the DRC act in the best interests of the children.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 588 so that we can end the suffering and heartbreak currently experienced by so many American families and their adopted

children from the DRC. It is the right thing to do.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today we have a chance to change the lives of hundreds of American families, including three families in the Sixth District of Kentucky. One of these is the Hatton family, who are sitting in the gallery here today.

These families have legally adopted children from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but have been unable to bring their children home because their exit permits have been unfairly halted.

After learning of their struggles, I have been working closely with the Department of State and advocating on their behalf because no family should be faced with the choice of leaving the newest member of their family in another country or remaining in the Congo, further splitting up their family and causing a tremendous amount of uncertainty and heartache.

We must do everything in our power to help these American citizens and facilitate the travel of their adopted children home to join their family in the United States.

That is why I am a cosponsor of this resolution and thank the member from Minnesota for his leadership and support on this issue.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan resolution to encourage the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resume issuing exit permits so that families can bring their adoptive children home to the United States.

I want to commend my colleague, Representative COLLIN PETERSON, for bringing this measure forward. It makes clear that we condemn the use of children as political pawns and support the unification of these families that have been separated due to arbitrary, bureaucratic, red tape.

As the father of three, I can imagine nothing worse than being separated from my children and not being able to love and care for them. Unfortunately, this has been a reality for hundreds of American families, including two in my district.

The Riegler's, a family from Muncie, legally adopted their son Chiza on August 27, 2013. Almost a year later, he is not home, despite having medical needs that can only be properly treated in the United States. The Riegler's are not alone in this harrowing experience, other families throughout the country are in the same senseless limbo.

The Department of State must put pressure on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to issue exit permits for children that have legally been adopted. As exit permits are provided for children deemed medically fragile, the State Department must then expeditiously process the paperwork to ensure these children are in their parents' arms as soon as possible.

All children have a right to be in a loving family that can provide the support they need to become healthy adults. We should not accept having to wait years to bring an adopted child home to the United States as the best we can do for these children and their parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 588, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

## PRECLEARANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3488) to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3488

*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 "Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014".

### SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

Pursuant to section 1629 of title 19, United States Code, and subject to section 5, the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in a foreign country to—

- (1) prevent terrorists, instruments of terrorism, and other security threats from entering the United States;
- (2) prevent inadmissible persons from entering the United States;
- (3) ensure merchandise destined for the United States complies with applicable laws;
- (4) ensure the prompt processing of persons eligible to travel to the United States; and
- (5) accomplish such other objectives as the Secretary determines necessary to protect the United States.

### SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A copy of the proposed agreement to establish such preclearance operations, including an identification of the foreign country with which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to enter into a preclearance agreement, and the location at which such preclearance operations will be conducted.

(2) An estimate of the date on which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to establish preclearance operations under such agreement.

(3) The anticipated funding sources for preclearance operations under such agreement, and other funding sources considered.

(4) An assessment of the impact such preclearance operations will have on legitimate trade and travel, including potential impacts on passengers traveling to the United States.

(5) A homeland security threat assessment for the country in which such preclearance operations are to be established.

(6) An assessment of the impacts such preclearance operations will have on U.S. Customs and Border Protection domestic port of entry staffing.

(7) Information on potential economic, competitive, and job impacts on United States air carriers associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(8) Information on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(9) Information on potential security vulnerabilities associated with commencing such preclearance operations, and mitigation plans to address such potential security vulnerabilities.

(10) A U.S. Customs and Border Protection staffing model for such preclearance operations, and plans for how such positions would be filled.

(11) Information on the anticipated costs over the next five fiscal years associated with commencing such preclearance operations.

(12) A copy of the agreement referred to in subsection (a) of section 5.

(13) Other factors that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines to be necessary for Congress to comprehensively assess the appropriateness of commencing such preclearance operations.

(b) CERTIFICATIONS RELATING TO PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED AT AIRPORTS.—In the case of an airport, in addition to the notification requirements under subsection (a), not later than 90 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A certification that preclearance operations under such preclearance agreement would provide homeland security benefits to the United States.

(2) A certification that preclearance operations within such foreign country will be established under such agreement only if—

(A) at least one United States passenger carrier operates at such airport; and

(B) the access of all United States passenger carriers to such preclearance operations is the same as the access of any non-United States passenger carrier.

(3) A certification that the Secretary of Homeland Security has considered alternative options to preclearance operations and has determined that such options are not the most effective means of achieving the objectives specified in section 3.

(4) A certification that the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country will not significantly increase customs processing times at United States airports.

(5) An explanation of other objectives that will be served by the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country.

(6) A certification that representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection consulted publicly with interested parties, including providers of commercial air service in the United States, employees of such providers, security experts, and such other parties as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, before entering into such an agreement with such foreign government.

(7) A report detailing the basis for the certifications referred to in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(c) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 30 days before substantially modifying a preclearance agreement with the government of a foreign country in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of the proposed agreement, as modified, and the justification for such modification.

### (d) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall monthly measure the average customs processing time to enter the 25 United States airports that support the highest volume of international travel (as determined by available Federal passenger data) and provide to the appropriate congressional committees such measurements.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Based on the measurements described in paragraph (1), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall quarterly assess whether the average customs processing time referred to in such paragraph significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation.

(3) SUBMISSION.—Based on the assessment conducted under paragraph (2), if the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1) significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation described in paragraph (2), the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 days after making such determination, provide to the appropriate congressional committees a remediation plan for reducing such average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1).

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 30 days after submitting the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3), the Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection shall implement those portions of such plan that can be carried out using existing resources, excluding the transfer of personnel.

(5) SUSPENSION.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not submit the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3) within 60 days in accordance with such paragraph, the Commissioner may not, until such time as such remediation plan is submitted, conduct any negotiations relating to preclearance operations at an airport in any country or commence any such preclearance operations.

(6) STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS.—The remediation plan described in paragraph (3) shall consider recommendations solicited from relevant stakeholders.

(e) CLASSIFIED REPORT.—The assessment required pursuant to subsection (a)(5) and the report required pursuant to subsection (b)(7) may be submitted in classified form if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such is appropriate.

### SEC. 5. AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING AT PRECLEARANCE AIRPORTS.

(a) AVIATION SECURITY STANDARDS AGREEMENT.—Prior to the commencement of preclearance operations at an airport in a foreign country under this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall enter into an agreement with the government of such foreign country that delineates and requires the adoption of aviation security screening standards that are determined by the Administrator to be comparable to those of the United States.

(b) AVIATION SECURITY RESCREENING.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines that the government of a foreign country has not maintained security standards and protocols comparable to those of the United States at airports at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator