

themselves as Muslim and the approximately 3 percent of religious minorities groups comprising of Christians, Yezidis, Sabeans, Mandaeans, Bahais, Shabaks, Kakais, and Jews;

Whereas the Iraqi Christian population is estimated to be between 400,000 and 850,000 with two-thirds being Chaldean, one-fifth Assyrian, and the remainder consisting of Syrians, Protestants, Armenians, and Anglicans;

Whereas the Iraqi constitution provides for religious freedom by stating—

(1) “no law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy”;

(2) “no law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms stipulated in this Constitution”;

(3) “[This Constitution] guarantees the full religious rights to freedom of religious belief and practice of all individuals such as Christians, Yazidis, and Mandaean Sabeans”;

Whereas over 500,000 people have been displaced by the current situation in Iraq and reports have surfaced of targeted harassment, persecution, and killings of Iraqi religious minorities by ISIL with little to no protection from the Iraqi Government and other security forces;

Whereas the fall of Mosul in particular has sparked enough anxiety among the Christian population that for the first time in 1,600 years there was no Mass in the city;

Whereas over 50 percent of Iraq’s Christian population has fled since the fall of Saddam Hussein, 1,100,000 people of diverse religious backgrounds remain internally displaced and the government under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has not upheld its commitment to protect the rights of religious minorities;

Whereas the United States has provided over \$73,000,000 of cumulative assistance to Iraq’s minority populations since 2003 through economic development, humanitarian services, and capacity development;

Whereas 84,902 Iraqis have resettled to the United States between 2007 and 2013 and over 300,000 Chaldean and Assyrians currently reside throughout the country, particularly in Michigan, California, Arizona, Illinois, and Ohio; and

Whereas President Barack Obama recently declared on Religious Freedom Day, “Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose . . . we also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms its commitments to promoting and protecting religious freedom around the world and providing relief to minority groups facing persecution;

(2) calls on the United States Department of State to work with the Kurdistan Regional Government, the Iraqi central government, neighboring countries, the diaspora community in the United States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and other key stakeholders to help secure safe havens for those claiming amnesty in Iraq; and

(3) respectfully requests the addition of a Special Representative for Religious Minorities to be included in Prime Minister al-Maliki’s newly reconstructed government.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the text at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

(1) deplors and condemns the religious bigotry, vandalism and destruction of property, and violent attacks on and intimidation of innocent Iraqi civilians by armed extremists;

(2) calls on the United States Department of State to work with the Kurdistan Regional Government, the Iraqi central government, neighboring countries, the diaspora community in the United States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and other key stakeholders to help secure safe havens for those claiming amnesty in Iraq;

(3) calls on the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on a sustained basis to document human rights abuses against Iraqi civilians and develop an immediate plan to facilitate safe humanitarian access to potable water, health care, fuel, electricity, and basic security for the most vulnerable civilian populations;

(4) calls upon the Government of Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens;

(5) respectfully requests the addition of a Special Representative for Religious Minorities to be included in the newly reconstructed government of Iraq; and

(6) reaffirms its commitments to promoting and protecting religious freedom around the world and providing relief to minority groups facing persecution.

Mr. ROYCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY

MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Iraq is currently embroiled in a political and religious insurrection stemming from an Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL)-led offensive that began in the Anbar province and has spread to key locations such as Mosul, Tikrit, and Samarra and continues to engulf the region in violence and instability;

Whereas ISIL is a transnational Sunni insurgency whose ideological and organizational roots lie in both al Qaeda in Iraq and the Syria-based Jabhat al Nursa and has a stated mission of establishing an Islamic state and a caliphate across the Levant through violence against Shiites, non-Muslims, and unsupportive Sunnis;

Whereas Iraq’s population is approximately 31,300,000 with 97 percent identifying themselves as Muslim and the approximately 3 percent of religious minorities groups comprising of Christians, Yezidis, Sabeans, Mandaeans, Bahais, Shabaks, Kakais, and Jews;

Whereas the Iraqi Christian population is estimated to be between 400,000 and 850,000

with two-thirds being Chaldean, one-fifth Assyrian, and the remainder consisting of Syrians, Protestants, Armenians, and Anglicans;

Whereas the Iraqi constitution provides for religious freedom by stating—

(1) “no law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy”;

(2) “no law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms stipulated in this Constitution”;

(3) “[This Constitution] guarantees the full religious rights to freedom of religious belief and practice of all individuals such as Christians, Yazidis, and Mandaean Sabeans”;

Whereas over 500,000 people have been displaced by the current situation in Iraq and reports have surfaced of targeted harassment, persecution, and killings of Iraqi religious minorities by ISIL with little to no protection from the Iraqi Government and other security forces;

Whereas the fall of Mosul in particular has sparked enough anxiety among the Christian population that for the first time in 1,600 years there was no Mass in the city;

Whereas over 50 percent of Iraq’s Christian population has fled since the fall of Saddam Hussein, 1,100,000 people of diverse religious backgrounds remain internally displaced and the government under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has not upheld its commitment to protect the rights of religious minorities;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports as of January 2014 a total population of concern in Iraq numbering 1,522,855 people, including refugees and internally displaced persons, many of whom face grave deprivation and imminent threats to life, health, and safety;

Whereas the United States has provided over \$73,000,000 of cumulative assistance to Iraq’s minority populations since 2003 through economic development, humanitarian services, and capacity development;

Whereas 84,902 Iraqis have resettled to the United States between 2007 and 2013 and over 300,000 Chaldean and Assyrians currently reside throughout the country, particularly in Michigan, California, Arizona, Illinois, and Ohio; and

Whereas President Barack Obama recently declared on Religious Freedom Day, “Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose . . . we also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace”: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. ROYCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WELCOMING AFRICAN LEADERS TO FIRST UNITED STATES-AFRICA LEADERS’ SUMMIT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the resolution

(H. Res. 699) welcoming African leaders to the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit and African trade ministers to the 13th Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 699

Whereas the United States Congress enacted the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in 2000, with broad bipartisan support and with a view to expanding growth and opportunity in Africa;

Whereas in the original AGOA legislation, Congress encouraged the establishment of more regular high-level dialogues, including regular meetings by the President with his African counterparts;

Whereas the people of Africa share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity, and are both committed to strengthening economic relations;

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to support the reduction of poverty in the continent of Africa;

Whereas greater opportunities for mutually beneficial trade and investments promote economic growth, development, poverty reduction, democracy, the rule of law, and stability;

Whereas good governance, including respecting constitutional term limits, human rights, and ensuring that civil society organizations are able to function freely contribute to enduring economic and social development in Africa;

Whereas the countries in Africa are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas Africa has today 6 of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, over 1,000,000,000 people, 60 percent of the world's uncultivated agricultural land, and expanding democracies;

Whereas Africa is rich through the youth of its population, enjoying a demographic advantage over all other regions of the world, and is likely to replace China as the biggest contributor to the global workforce by 2050;

Whereas it is in the economic interest of the United States to engage and compete in emerging African markets, boost United States-Africa trade and investment, support greater capacity building for Africa, and invest in Africa's youth and leadership development;

Whereas exports from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States under AGOA have increased over three-fold from \$7,600,000,000 in 2001 to \$24,800,000,000 in 2013;

Whereas United States exports to sub-Saharan Africa have increased from \$6,900,000,000 to \$23,900,000,000 and United States investment in sub-Saharan Africa has increased six-fold;

Whereas per capita income in sub-Saharan Africa has more than tripled to \$1,624 annually since Congress first passed AGOA, yet nearly half the population in sub-Saharan Africa lives in poverty;

Whereas timely renewal of AGOA, which expires September 30, 2015, is critical to the maintenance and promotion of investment opportunities in the region;

Whereas regional integration should be strengthened to improve the full utilization

of AGOA preferences, and elimination of barriers to trade and investment in Africa, such as high tariffs, forced localization requirements, restrictions on investment, and customs barriers, among others, will strengthen and improve regional and global integration;

Whereas it remains the goal of United States policy to support the diversification of sub-Saharan exports in terms of products and countries that utilize AGOA;

Whereas the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) adopted several important Decisions and Declarations in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and specific results on agriculture and development, with the protocol of amendment for the Agreement on Trade Facilitation to be adopted on July 31, 2014;

Whereas full implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation will help to address supply-side constraints in Africa, promote regional integration on the continent, and facilitate integration into global supply chains;

Whereas the House of Representatives introduced on June 27, 2013, and passed on May 8, 2014, the Electrify Africa Act, to make it a national policy of the United States to promote the electrification of Sub-Saharan Africa to more than double the number of people with access to power in order to improve health and education outcomes and stimulate economic opportunity; and

Whereas, on June 30, 2013, in Cape Town, South Africa, President Barack Obama announced the Power Africa Initiative, to significantly increase the number of people with access to power in Sub-Saharan Africa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) welcomes African leaders to the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington, DC;

(2) welcomes African trade ministers to the 13th African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum;

(3) recognizes the significant progress and hope that modern Africa represents today in global affairs and economic advancement with its booming demographics, increasing modernization, dynamic youth, and vast resources;

(4) acknowledges the vast opportunities to boost cultural, trade, and economic relations and partnerships between the United States and Africa;

(5) recognizes the importance of renewing the AGOA program well before its expiration in September 2015;

(6) supports studying potential changes to the program to improve its effectiveness and utilization and exploring how Africa can address barriers to become more attractive to trade and investment within Africa as well as globally;

(7) encourages the prompt and full implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement as one important way to address supply-side barriers and encourage greater trade and investment in Africa; and

(8) welcomes that the African Leaders at the African Union Summit on June 27, 2014, reaffirmed their commitments to all the decisions the Ministers took in Bali, including emphasizing that assistance and support for capacity building should be provided as envisaged in the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, and that the Agreement should be implemented in line with the decision Trade Ministers took in Bali, which provides that a protocol be adopted by July 31, 2014, and definitive entry into force by July 31, 2015.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the text at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

(1) is studying ways to improve the effectiveness and utilization of the range of United States trade policy tools with respect to Africa, including AGOA, and exploring how Africa can address barriers to become more attractive to trade and investment within Africa as well as globally; and

(2) looks forward to continuing to work with African leaders to improve our economic and bilateral relationships.

Mr. ROYCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY
MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the people of Africa share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity, and are both committed to strengthening economic relations;

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to support the reduction of poverty in the continent of Africa;

Whereas greater opportunities for mutually beneficial trade and investments promote economic growth, development, poverty reduction, democracy, the rule of law, and stability;

Whereas the countries in Africa are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas Africa has today 6 of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, over 1 billion people, 60 percent of the world's uncultivated agricultural land, and expanding democracies;

Whereas Africa is rich through the youth of its population, enjoying a demographic advantage over all other regions of the world, and is likely to replace the People's Republic of China as the biggest contributor to the global workforce by 2050;

Whereas it is in the economic interest of the United States to engage and compete in emerging African markets, boost United States-Africa trade and investment, support greater capacity building for Africa, and invest in Africa's youth and leadership development;

Whereas in 2000 the Congress passed the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), with broad bipartisan support and with a view to expanding growth and opportunity in Africa;

Whereas in the original AGOA legislation, Congress encouraged the establishment of more regular high-level dialogues, including regular meetings by the President with his African counterparts;

Whereas exports from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States under AGOA have increased over three-fold from \$7.6 billion in 2001 to \$24.8 billion in 2013;

Whereas United States exports to sub-Saharan Africa have increased from \$6.9 billion to \$23.9 billion and United States investment in sub-Saharan Africa has increased six-fold;

Whereas per capita income in sub-Saharan Africa has more than tripled to \$1,624 annually since Congress first passed AGOA, yet nearly half the population in sub-Saharan Africa lives in poverty;

Whereas regional integration should be strengthened to boost economic growth in Africa, and elimination of barriers to trade and investment in Africa, such as high tariffs, forced localization requirements, restrictions on investment, and customs barriers, among others, will strengthen and improve regional and global integration;

Whereas it remains the goal of United States policy to support the diversification of sub-Saharan exports in terms of products and countries that utilize AGOA;

Whereas the members of the World Trade Organization adopted several important Decisions and Declarations in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and specific results on agriculture and development, with the protocol of amendment for the Agreement on Trade Facilitation to be adopted on July 31, 2014;

Whereas full implementation by our trading partners of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation will help to address supply-side constraints in Africa, promote regional integration on the continent, and facilitate integration into global supply chains;

Whereas on June 30, 2013, in Cape Town, South Africa, President Barack Obama announced the Power Africa Initiative, to double the number of people with access to power in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas on May 8, 2014, the House of Representatives passed the Electrify Africa Act, to make it a national policy of the United States to support the electrification of sub-Saharan Africa, and to direct United States agencies to devote resources to facilitate and support the implementation of this initiative; and

Whereas the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit and the 13th African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum will be held in Washington, DC, this summer: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. ROYCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST TO DELETE REMARKS IN DEBATE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to strike from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the words of the gentlewoman from Minnesota who described placing a handcuff on one hand of the President's—

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I object as the request is not timely.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Excuse me. May I finish my unanimous consent request? Thank you.

She in one moment described putting one handcuff on one hand of the Presi-

dent's and a second handcuff on the second hand of the President's and handcuffing the lawless President of the United States.

Those are words which are not appropriate in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I ask unanimous consent that they be stricken. Impugning the character and integrity of the President of the United States is a clear violation of the rules of this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I do object. The request is not timely.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. CICILLINE. A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield for a moment.

There is no requirement that a unanimous consent request be timely. The House can consent unanimously to any course of action. I am asking the House to consent unanimously to striking these particular words from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. There is no requirement under the House rules that it be done contemporaneously, that is, of taking down the words of today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has stated a unanimous consent request, and there has been an objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. And I have heard no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. There is an objection to the unanimous consent request, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is an objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. FATTAH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and a Joint Resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 231. An act to reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp; the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S.J. Res. 36. Joint resolution relating to the approval and implementation of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills

of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the speaker:

H.R. 3230. An Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3548. An Act to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents.

H.R. 4360. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the "Jason Crip Forest Service Building".

H.R. 4631. An Act to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4838. An Act to redesignate the railroad station located at 2955 Market Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commonly known as "30th Street Station", as the "William H. Gray III 30th Street Station".

H.R. 5021. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 694, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Monday, August 4, 2014.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, August 4, 2014, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6775. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6776. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6777. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6778. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6779. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6780. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6781. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.