

Frankel (FL)	Lieu, Ted	Sarbanes
Fudge	Loebsock	Schakowsky
Gabbard	Lofgren	Schiff
Gallego	Lowenthal	Schrader
Garamendi	Lowe	Scott (VA)
Gibson	Lujan, Ben Ray	Scott, David
Graham	(NM)	Serrano
Grayson	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Grijalva	McCollum	Sherman
Hahn	McDermott	Sinema
Hanna	McGovern	Sires
Hastings	McNerney	Slaughter
Heck (WA)	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Higgins	Murphy (FL)	Speier
Himes	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Honda	Neal	Takano
Hoyer	Norcross	Thompson (CA)
Huffman	O'Rourke	Titus
Israel	Pallone	Tonko
Jeffries	Pascrell	Torres
Johnson (GA)	Payne	Tsongas
Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	Vargas
Kennedy	Peters	Veasey
Kildee	Pingree	Vela
Kilmer	Price (NC)	Velázquez
Kirkpatrick	Quigley	Visclosky
Kuster	Rice (NY)	Walt
Langevin	Roybal-Allard	Wasserman
Larsen (WA)	Ruiz	Schultz
Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger	Watson Coleman
Lawrence	Ryan (OH)	Weber (TX)
Lee	Sánchez, Linda	Welch
Levin	T.	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—55

Aderholt	Green, Al	Nugent
Becerra	Green, Gene	Paulsen
Bishop (GA)	Gutiérrez	Pittenger
Castor (FL)	Hinojosa	Pocan
Clyburn	Jackson Lee	Poe (TX)
Crawford	Jolly	Polis
Crowley	Kaptur	Rangel
Cuellar	Kind	Richmond
Curbelo (FL)	Lewis	Roe (TN)
Delaney	Lipinski	Rush
Dold	Lujan Grisham	Sanchez, Loretta
Doyle, Michael	(NM)	Shimkus
F.	Maloney,	Takai
Duffy	Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Ellmers (NC)	Maloney, Sean	Waters, Maxine
Farenthold	Meng	Wilson (FL)
Fincher	Moore	Wilson (SC)
Fitzpatrick	Napolitano	Yoder
Gowdy	Noem	
Granger	Nolan	

□ 1941

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 267, I was unavoidably detained due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 267 on passage of the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act (H.R. 1335), I am not recorded because of prior commitments in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 1st, 2015, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 267. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the final passage of H.R. 1335—Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following votes: Dingell Amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill; Lowenthal Amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill; Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 1335. Had I been present, I

would have voted "yes" on this bill; Final Passage of H.R. 1335. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1335, STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 1335, to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to accurately reflect the actions of the House, including in section 15 (page 35, beginning on line 10), striking "The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);" and inserting "The Act".

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2577, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2578, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-135) on the resolution (H. Res. 287) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 48, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEFANK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 48

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on July 8, 2015, for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1945

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2036

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Congressman BROOKS from Alabama be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2036.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GIRLS COUNT ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 802) to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 802

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 "Girls Count Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to the United States Census Bureau's 2013 international figures, 1 person in 12, or close to 900,000,000 people, is a girl or young woman age 10 through 24.

(2) The Census Bureau's data also illustrates that young people are the fastest growing segment of the population in developing countries.

(3) Even though most countries do have birth registration laws, four out of ten babies born in 2012 were not registered worldwide. Moreover, an estimated 36 percent of children under the age of five worldwide (about 230,000,000 children) do not possess a birth certificate.

(4) A nationally recognized proof of birth system is important to determining a child's citizenship, nationality, place of birth, parentage, and age. Without such a system, a passport, driver's license, or other identification card is difficult to obtain. The lack of such documentation can prevent girls and women from officially participating in and benefitting from the formal economic, legal, and political sectors in their countries.

(5) The lack of birth registration among girls worldwide is particularly concerning as it can exacerbate the disproportionate vulnerability of women to trafficking, child marriage, and lack of access to health and education services.

(6) A lack of birth registration among women and girls can also aggravate what, in many places, amounts to an already reduced ability to seek employment, participate in civil society, or purchase or inherit land and other assets.

(7) Girls undertake much of the domestic labor needed for poor families to survive: carrying water, harvesting crops, tending livestock, caring for younger children, and doing chores.

(8) Accurate assessments of access to education, poverty levels, and overall census activities are hampered by the lack of official information on women and girls. Without this rudimentary information, assessments of foreign assistance and domestic social welfare programs are difficult to gauge.

(9) To help ensure that women and girls are considered in United States foreign assistance policies and programs, that their needs are addressed in the design, implementation, and evaluation of foreign assistance programs, and that women and girls have the opportunity to succeed, it is important that girls be counted and have access to birth certificates and other official documentation.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) encourage countries to support the rule of law and ensure girls and boys of all ages are able to fully participate in society, including by providing birth certifications and other official documentation;

(2) enhance training and capacity-building in key developing countries, local nongovernmental organizations, and other civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations and organizations representing children and families in the design, implementation, and monitoring of programs under this Act, to effectively address the needs of birth registries in countries where girls are systematically undercounted; and

(3) incorporate into the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs measures to evaluate the impact that such policies and programs have on girls.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT COUNTING OF GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to prioritize and advance ongoing efforts to—

(1) support programs that will contribute to improved and sustainable Civil Registra-

tion and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) with a focus on birth registration;

(2) support programs that build the capacity of developing countries' national and local legal and policy frameworks to prevent discrimination against girls in gaining access to birth certificates, particularly where this may help prevent exploitation, violence, and other abuse; and

(3) support programs and key ministries, including, interior, youth, and education ministries, to help increase property rights, social security, home ownership, land tenure security, inheritance rights, access to education, and economic and entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for women and girls.

(b) **COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to coordinate with the World Bank, relevant United Nations agencies and programs, and other relevant organizations to encourage and work with countries to enact, implement, and enforce laws that specifically collect data on girls and establish registration programs to ensure girls are appropriately counted and have the opportunity to be active participants in the social, legal, and political sectors of society in their countries.

(c) **COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.**—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to work with the United States, international, and local private sector and civil society organizations to advocate for the registration and documentation of all girls and boys in developing countries, in order to help prevent exploitation, violence, and other abuses and to help provide economic and social opportunities.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in relevant evaluations and reports to Congress the following information:

(1) To the extent practicable, a breakdown of United States foreign assistance beneficiaries by age, gender, marital status, location, and school enrollment status.

(2) A description, as appropriate, of how United States foreign assistance benefits girls.

(3) Specific information, as appropriate, on programs that address the particular needs of girls.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) **FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.**—The term “foreign assistance” has the meaning given the term in section 634(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394(b)).

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

SEC. 7. SUNSET.

This Act shall expire on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam 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 Ohio?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of S. 802, the Girls Count Act of 2015. It is identical to H.R. 2100, the House version of the bill, which my staff has worked on for 3 years now.

I want to thank Senator MARCO RUBIO and his staff for moving this bill through the Senate so we can soon get this important piece of legislation to the President's desk.

Madam Speaker, the Girls Count Act of 2015 is an important measure because what many people don't realize is that approximately 51 million children around the world are not registered at their births. That is one-third of all children under the age of 5 worldwide.

What does this mean? It means that these children lack a birth certificate, preventing them, oftentimes, from having access to fundamental rights which we here in the United States take for granted. It means they have no proof of their ages, parentage, or even of their citizenship. They are essentially non-people, oftentimes, in the eyes of the law.

For girls in particular, the lack of a birth registration certificate increases their vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. These girls grow up facing high barriers to work, education, and political participation. Tragically, too often, these girls are treated in their own countries as if they really don't exist, as if they really don't count at all.

All of this is happening in places where we need women and girls to actively shape their countries' futures because, indeed, women serve as the backbone of stable, healthy societies all around the world. They are breadwinners and caregivers and peacemakers and the educators of the next generation.

For these reasons, I introduced and authored the Girls Count Act to direct the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to support efforts aimed at improving birth registry-birth certificate programs in developing countries and others.

This step, which actually seems quite simple, will ensure that every child gets access to voting rights, land tenure rights, health services, and an education. Critically, Girls Count authorizes the State Department and USAID to support programs to protect girls' legal rights, particularly economic and property rights, and to build legal and policy frameworks to prevent discrimination against women and girls.

Your support of the Girls Count Act of 2015—those who have supported this legislation—will not only help to prevent human and sex trafficking in developing countries by aiding in identifying displaced persons and international adoption cases, but it will

give girls and women around the world access to the fundamental rights that they so rightly deserve.

I want to thank Congresswoman MCCOLLUM and Congressmen SMITH and SHERMAN for their support in introducing this legislation in the House, as well as to thank the 44 other bipartisan Members—this is a Republican and a Democratic bill—who have given their support.

I also want to thank my colleagues in the Senate, especially Senator MARCO RUBIO, for backing this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of S. 802, the Girls Count Act of 2015.

I want to thank Representatives CHABOT and MCCOLLUM for introducing the House companion to this bill.

Madam Speaker, around the world, over a third of children under the age of 5 have no registration of their births. Most of these children are girls.

I remember my grandmother—my mother's mother—who came to this country before World War I from Eastern Europe. She didn't have a certificate and didn't really know for sure what year she was born or what time she was born.

She knew it was December—she thought it was December—but she didn't have it, I remember. Here we are now, many, many years later, and we have the same problem in many areas around the world.

Not existing on paper can shatter a person's life. With official documentation comes certain protections, and without those protections a person becomes an easy target for child labor, human trafficking, and child marriage. Down the line, many of these children will be unable to inherit land or money, to start a business, or even to open a bank account.

This sort of marginalization often hits women the hardest. Unregistered women are more likely to be confined to their homes and to be invisible to the outside world. They enjoy only limited choices and opportunities, and their marginalization drags down the prosperity of their communities.

Birth registration has most recently become an acute problem in Syria. The ongoing civil war has caused countless internally displaced and refugee children to go unregistered. As a result, these children face a high risk of entering into early or illegal marriages, of being sex trafficked, of being forced into child labor, or of being recruited by terrorist groups.

S. 802 will ramp up efforts to get more children registered around the world. It authorizes the State Department and USAID to work with local governments to ensure equal access to registration programs. It uses existing funding to more effectively address this increasingly serious problem.

This bill would complement the work of organizations around the world en-

gaged in the important work of protecting vulnerable children, and it would put pressure on other governments to act.

While improving birth registration systems helps the most vulnerable populations, it has positive ripple effects across a society. Governments with better records can provide better services, tailor more effective policies, and bring more people into full participation in their economies. This basic practice can help make entire countries stronger.

Getting children registered at birth helps get them off to a good start, and this bill will help make that happen. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is now my great pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), one of the co-authors of this bill and someone who has worked endlessly to make sure this bill passes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to support the Girls Count Act.

I want to thank Mr. CHABOT and his staff for working alongside my office on this important bill. I want to thank Mr. ROYCE and, of course, Mr. ENGEL for their support in moving this bill forward.

Madam Speaker, we can all agree that every child deserves to have his birth, name, and identity recognized by his government. Every child deserves access to an education and to health services. Without a recognized identity, that is just not possible. Unfortunately, UNICEF estimates that 230 million children under the age of 5—and that is mostly girls—do not have birth certificates.

Without this piece of paper, they are effectively invisible to their governments, invisible to the world. These invisible girls are likely not to be able to attend school or to access the needed health services. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for a girl to inherit, to vote, or to simply be a full and active member of her community.

This girl would be at high risk of being confined to her home, of being forced into early marriage, or of being sold into human trafficking. Without a birth certificate, she will likely face a bleak future. None of us would want this for her.

The Girls Count Act is exactly what the title says; it helps ensure that all girls and boys are counted by their governments. The bill helps support the efforts of the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID to work with international organizations and NGOs to improve birth registration for all children. Every child deserves to have his birth recognized, and it deserves to be recognized by his government.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time and my right to close.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Once again, let me say that getting children registered at birth helps get them off to a good start. This bill encourages governments to enact laws and policies that give all children, including girls, a chance at being full participants in society. I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

I want to again compliment Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. CHABOT for their hard work on this very important piece of legislation. This should be a unanimous "yes." I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would like to thank Congresswoman MCCOLLUM and also the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, for their leadership on this issue. Both of them have been very important parts of seeing this through the House. It went through the other body recently as well, so it is working its way to the President's desk, and we are very encouraged by that.

Madam Speaker, many of us are deeply concerned by the appalling acts of injustice that are committed against women and girls around the world on a daily basis. The headlines are, oftentimes, hard to believe—acid attacks in Iran, death at the hands of a savage mob in Afghanistan, the kidnapping of schoolgirls in Nigeria—yet the disenfranchisement of women and girls around the world is not just an humanitarian issue; it is a development issue, and it is a security issue as well.

How can a nation thrive when half of its citizens are oftentimes denied their most basic human rights? The Girls Count Act—this act, the one that we are talking about this evening—recognizes the suffering and aims to empower those who have been cast into the shadows of their societies.

Birth registration is one of the first steps in the fight to preserve an individual's basic rights under the law in that particular country. It is also a critical means to ensuring the full participation of women and girls in their communities. Whether it is voting or owning property or employment or health care or a whole range of things. Let's help girls count.

Again, I want to thank the House for supporting the passage of this measure. This will be the second year now—2 years in a row—that this House, I believe, will support it, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, as we pass the bipartisan Girls Count Act of 2015, I'd like to emphasize the importance of advancing women's rights around the world. In 2015, it is completely unacceptable that women still do not possess the same rights as men.

My grandmother raised her family and put food on the table to ensure that her children and grandchildren received the education and care they deserved. I am incredibly proud of my grandmother and all women like her who are the rocks of their families. I am fighting for women's rights because it is each generation's obligation to ensure that the next generation is better off than the previous. I fight for my daughter and granddaughter, who I hope will one day live in a world where there is true gender equality.

In a time where women should be equal to men, there are unspeakable atrocities being committed all over the world. For example, Boko Haram kidnapped over 300 school girls, drawing the ire of global activists. By passing this legislation, we will become leaders in the worldwide fight against misogyny. This bill requires countries around the world to develop civil registration and statistical programs to better trace women's information. In addition, it prevents governments from discriminating against women, while creating a policy framework to improve access to economic and property ownership. I sincerely hope that governments draft strong legislation that changes the current policy.

I am grateful that our chamber has taken this important step to ensure that countries around the world recognize the need to improve women's access to basic rights. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting women's rights.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my good friend and colleague Congressman STEVE CHABOT for his leadership and hard work in shepherding the Girls Count Act as it makes its way to the President's desk. It is important legislation that will make an impact in the lives of so many girls and young women around the world.

Like last year, I am an original co-sponsor of the House version of the Girls Count Act, and I think that the version introduced in both Houses this Congress is even better than the one that the House passed last year, as it explicitly recognizes the great work that so many faith-based organizations do around the globe.

There is a need for the legislation, because in too many parts of the world, girls are discriminated against simply for being a girl. Indeed, this disregard for the value of the girl child often begins in the womb, in countries such as India and China, where we see the horrific practice of sex-selective abortion. This cruel practice in turn has led to a gender imbalance which has fed other crimes against women, such as sex trafficking, bride selling and prostitution.

I chaired a hearing two years ago on the problem of "India's Missing Girls," which addressed the problem of violence against the girl child in India. Sex-selective abortion and female infanticide have led to lopsided sex ratios: in parts of India, for example, 126 boys are born for every 100 girls. Perhaps the best figures we have concerning the magnitude of the problem come from India's 2011 census figures, which find that there are approximately 37 million more men than women in India.

In China, too, we see the brutal effects of a one-child policy that causes baby girls to be killed before birth; where only one child per couple is permitted in a society that has a traditional preference for sons, the predictable re-

sult is that a disproportionate number of girls will be killed in the womb.

As Mara Hvistendahl recounted in a book I recommend to all of my colleagues, *Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men*, in Asia alone, there are 160 million missing girls, roughly the same amount of women and girls as there are in the United States. The result of this sex-imbalance is a world where there is greater political instability, with violence inside the womb begetting violence outside as well.

Today's legislation, which seeks to have every girl counted and registered, marks a small but important step toward a world where every child, boy or girl, is equally valued and cherished for her or his inherent, God-given dignity from the moment of conception.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 802.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECT AND PRESERVE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY ACT

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1493) to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1493

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 "Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(2) **CULTURAL PROPERTY.**—The term "cultural property" includes property covered under—

(A) the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, concluded at The Hague on May 14, 1954 (Treaty Doc. 106-1(A));

(B) Article 1 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO on November 23, 1972 (commonly referred to as the "1972 Convention"); or

(C) Article 1 of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, adopted by UNESCO on November 14, 1970 (commonly referred to as the "1970 UNESCO Convention").

SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Over the years, international cultural property has been looted, trafficked, lost, damaged, or destroyed due to political instability, armed conflict, natural disasters, and other threats.

(2) During China's Cultural Revolution, many antiques were destroyed, including a large portion of old Beijing, and Chinese authorities are now attempting to rebuild portions of China's lost architectural heritage.

(3) In 1975, the Khmer Rouge, after seizing power in Cambodia, systematically destroyed mosques and nearly every Catholic church in the country, along with many Buddhist temples, statues, and Buddhist literature.

(4) In 2001, the Taliban destroyed the Bamiyan Buddhas, ancient statues carved into a cliffside in central Afghanistan, leading to worldwide condemnation.

(5) After the fall of Saddam Hussein, thieves looted the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, resulting in the loss of approximately 15,000 items, including ancient amulets, sculptures, ivories, and cylinder seals. Many of these items remain unrecovered.

(6) The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami not only affected 11 countries, causing massive loss of life, but also damaged or destroyed libraries, archives, and World Heritage Sites such as the Mahabalipuram in India, the Sun Temple of Koranak on the Bay of Bengal, and the Old Town of Galle and its fortifications in Sri Lanka.

(7) In Haiti, the 2010 earthquake destroyed art, artifacts, and archives, and partially destroyed the 17th century Haitian city of Jacmel.

(8) In Mali, the Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist group Ansar Dine destroyed tombs and shrines in the ancient city of Timbuktu—a major center for trade, scholarship, and Islam in the 15th and 16th centuries—and threatened collections of ancient manuscripts.

(9) In Egypt, recent political instability has led to the ransacking of museums, resulting in the destruction of countless ancient artifacts that will forever leave gaps in humanity's record of the ancient Egyptian civilization.

(10) In Syria, the ongoing civil war has resulted in the shelling of medieval cities, damage to five World Heritage Sites, and the looting of museums containing artifacts that date back more than six millennia and include some of the earliest examples of writing.

(11) In Iraq and Syria, the militant group ISIL has destroyed numerous cultural sites and artifacts, such as the Tomb of Jonah in July 2014, in an effort to eradicate ethnic and religious minorities from contested territories. Concurrently, cultural antiquities that escape demolition are looted and trafficked to help fund ISIL's militant operations.

(12) On February 12, 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2199 (2015), which "[r]eaffirms its decision in paragraph 7 of resolution 1483 (2003) and decides that all Member States shall take appropriate steps to prevent the trade in Iraqi and Syrian cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific, and religious importance illegally removed from Iraq since 6 August 1990 and from Syria since 15 March 2011, including by prohibiting cross-border trade in such items, thereby allowing for their eventual safe return to the Iraqi and Syrian people."

(13) United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) also warns that ISIL and