

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

other extremist groups are trafficking cultural heritage items from Iraq and Syria to fund their recruitment efforts and carry out terrorist attacks.

(14) The destruction of cultural property represents an irreparable loss of humanity's common cultural heritage and is therefore a loss for all Americans.

(15) Protecting international cultural property is a vital part of United States cultural diplomacy, showing the respect of the United States for other cultures and the common heritage of humanity.

(16) The United States Armed Forces have played important roles in preserving and protecting cultural property. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established a commission to advise the United States military on the protection of cultural property. The commission formed teams of individuals known as the "Monuments Men" who are credited with securing, cataloguing, and returning hundreds of thousands of works of art stolen by the Nazis during World War II.

(17) The Department of State, in response to the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, noted that "the legislation is important to our foreign relations, including our international cultural relations. The expanding worldwide trade in objects of archaeological and ethnological interest has led to wholesale depredations in some countries, resulting in the mutilation of ceremonial centers and archaeological complexes of ancient civilizations and the removal of stone sculptures and reliefs." The Department further noted that "[t]he United States considers that on grounds of principle, good foreign relations, and concern for the preservation of the cultural heritage of mankind, it should render assistance in these situations."

(18) The U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield was founded in 2006 to support the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and to coordinate with the United States military, other branches of the United States Government, and other cultural heritage nongovernmental organizations in preserving international cultural property threatened by political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to—

(1) protect and preserve international cultural property at risk of looting, trafficking, and destruction due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters;

(2) protect international cultural property pursuant to its obligations under international treaties to which the United States is a party;

(3) prevent, in accordance with existing laws, importation of cultural property pillaged, looted, stolen, or trafficked at all times, including during political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters; and

(4) ensure that existing laws and regulations, including import restrictions imposed through the Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury, are fully implemented to prevent trafficking in stolen or looted cultural property.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION.

The Secretary of State shall designate a Department of State employee at the Assistant Secretary level or above to serve concurrently as the United States Coordinator for International Cultural Property Protection. The Coordinator shall—

(1) coordinate and promote efforts to protect international cultural property, especially activities that involve multiple Federal agencies;

(2) act as Chair of the Coordinating Committee on International Cultural Property Protection established under section 5;

(3) resolve interagency differences;

(4) develop strategies to reduce illegal trade and trafficking in international cultural property in the United States and abroad, including by reducing consumer demand for such trade;

(5) support activities to assist countries that are the principle sources of trafficked cultural property to protect cultural heritage sites and to prevent cultural property looting and theft;

(6) work with and consult domestic and international actors such as foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, museums, educational institutions, and research institutions to protect international cultural property; and

(7) submit to the appropriate congressional committees the annual report required under section 6.

SEC. 5. COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a Coordinating Committee on International Cultural Property Protection (in this section referred to as the "Committee").

(b) **FUNCTIONS.**—The full Committee shall meet not less often than annually to coordinate and inform Federal efforts to protect international cultural property and to facilitate the work of the United States Coordinator for International Cultural Property Protection designated under section 4.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Committee shall be composed of the United States Coordinator for International Cultural Property Protection, who shall act as Chair, and representatives of the following:

(1) The Department of State.

(2) The Department of Defense.

(3) The Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(4) The Department of the Interior.

(5) The Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(6) The United States Agency for International Development.

(7) The Smithsonian Institution.

(8) Such other entities as the Chair determines appropriate.

(d) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—The Committee may include such subcommittees and taskforces as the Chair determines appropriate. Such subcommittees or taskforces may be comprised of a subset of the Committee members or of such other members as the Chair determines appropriate. At the discretion of the Chair, the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and section 552b of title 5 of the United States Code (relating to open meetings) shall not apply to activities of such subcommittees or taskforces.

(e) **CONSULTATION.**—The Committee shall consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, museums, educational institutions, and research institutions on efforts to promote and protect international cultural property.

SEC. 6. REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES TO PROTECT INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for the next six years, the Secretary of State, acting through the United States Coordinator for International Cultural Property Protection, and in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Develop-

ment, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes information on activities of—

(1) the United States Coordinator and the Coordinating Committee on International Cultural Property Protection to protect international cultural property;

(2) the Department of State to protect international cultural property, including activities undertaken pursuant to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and other statutes, international agreements, and policies, including—

(A) procedures the Department has instituted to protect international cultural property at risk of destruction due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters; and

(B) actions the Department has taken to protect international cultural property in conflicts to which the United States is a party;

(3) the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to protect international cultural property, including activities and coordination with other Federal agencies, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations regarding the protection of international cultural property at risk due to political unrest, armed conflict, natural or other disasters, and USAID development programs;

(4) the Department of Defense to protect international cultural property, including activities undertaken pursuant to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and other cultural property protection statutes and international agreements, including—

(A) directives, policies, and regulations the Department has instituted to protect international cultural property at risk of destruction due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters; and

(B) actions the Department has taken to avoid damage to cultural property through construction activities abroad; and

(5) the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to protect both international cultural property abroad and international cultural property located in, or attempted to be imported into, the United States, including activities undertaken pursuant to statutes and international agreements, including—

(A) statutes and regulations the Department has employed in criminal, civil, and civil forfeiture actions to prevent and interdict trafficking in stolen and smuggled cultural property, including investigations into transnational organized crime and smuggling networks; and

(B) actions the Department has taken in order to ensure the consistent and effective application of law in cases relating to both international cultural property abroad and international cultural property located in, or attempted to be imported into, the United States.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ENGAGE IN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION ACTIVITIES WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any agency that is involved in international cultural property protection activities is authorized to enter into agreements or memoranda of understanding with the Smithsonian Institution to temporarily engage personnel from the Smithsonian Institution for the purposes of furthering such

international cultural property protection activities.

SEC. 8. EMERGENCY PROTECTION FOR SYRIAN CULTURAL PROPERTY.

(a) **PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 304 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2603) (relating to a Presidential determination that an emergency condition applies with respect to any archaeological or ethnological material of any State Party to the Convention), the President shall apply the import restrictions referred to in such section 304 with respect to any archaeological or ethnological material of Syria, except that subsection (c) of such section 304 shall not apply. Such import restrictions shall take effect not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **ANNUAL DETERMINATION REGARDING CERTIFICATION.**—

(1) **DETERMINATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall, not less often than annually, determine whether at least one of the conditions specified in subparagraph (B) is met, and shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such determination.

(B) **CONDITIONS.**—The conditions referred to in subparagraph (A) are the following:

(i) The Government of Syria is incapable, at the time a determination under such subparagraph is made, of fulfilling the requirements to request an agreement under section 303 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2602).

(ii) It would be against the United States national interest to enter into such an agreement.

(2) **TERMINATION OF RESTRICTIONS.**—The import restrictions referred to in subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date on which the President determines that neither of the conditions specified in paragraph (1)(B) are met, unless before such termination date Syria requests to enter into an agreement with the United States pursuant to section 303 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, in which case such import restrictions may remain in effect until the earliest of either—

(A) the date that is three years after the date on which Syria makes such a request; or

(B) the date on which the United States and Syria enter into such an agreement.

(c) **WAIVER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may waive the import restrictions referred to in subsection (a) for specified cultural property if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the conditions described in paragraph (2) are met.

(2) **CONDITIONS.**—The conditions referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A) The foreign owner or custodian of the specified cultural property has requested such property be temporarily located in the United States for protection purposes.

(B) Such property shall be returned to the foreign owner or custodian when requested by such foreign owner or custodian.

(C) Granting a waiver under this subsection will not contribute to illegal trafficking in cultural property or financing of criminal or terrorist activities.

(3) **ACTION.**—If the President grants a waiver under this subsection, the specified cultural property that is the subject of such waiver shall be placed in the temporary custody of the United States Government or in the temporary custody of a cultural or educational institution within the United States for the purpose of protection, restoration, conservation, study, or exhibition, without profit.

(4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall prevent application of the Act to render immune from seizure under judicial process certain objects of cultural significance imported into the United States for temporary display or exhibition, and for other purposes (22 U.S.C. 2459; Public Law 89-259) with respect to archaeological or ethnological material of Syria.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “archaeological or ethnological material of Syria” means cultural property of Syria and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific, or religious importance unlawfully removed from Syria on or after March 15, 2011; and

(2) the term “State Party” has the meaning given such term in section 302 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2601).

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, and I submit for the **RECORD** letters between the committees of jurisdiction.

Madam Speaker, the history of civilization is under attack. The Islamic State, also known as ISIS, continues to wreak havoc throughout Iraq and Syria, laying a path of death and destruction in order to establish and expand its caliphate.

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No offense is more appalling than the terrorists' complete disregard for human life. ISIS has unleashed a campaign of sickening violence against Shi'a Muslims and fellow Sunnis who do not share their radical beliefs, as well as against vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities. This includes its public beheadings and executions and the selling of women and girls into sexual slavery.

Besides the human toll of ISIS' deploable acts, we also mourn the loss of society's cultural heritage, as the extremists loot and destroy their way through ancient sites in the territories they conquer. We have seen heart-breaking footage of ISIS drilling their way through priceless artifacts in Mosul and bulldozing magnificent Mesopotamian ruins in the 3000-year-old city of Nimrud. ISIS claims the annihilation of cultural sites is meant to counter idolatry, but clearly these terrorists have another goal: to remove all traces of the region's rich and diverse religious and cultural past. By eliminating all evidence of humanity's common heritage, they are paving the

way for their own horrifying brand of Islamist extremism.

What we are witnessing is a cultural genocide. For ISIS, however, this looting of antiquities is big business. Some reports indicate that they are earning as much as \$100 million annually from the sale of stolen artifacts, which they often sell to middlemen who can peddle these treasures in old-fashioned markets or online.

Earlier this year, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution that urged member states to take steps to prevent the trafficking of Iraqi and Syrian cultural properties, and just last week, all 193 U.N. members agreed to step up the prosecution of those engaged in this illegal trade.

I want to commend the Committee on Foreign Affairs' ranking member, Elliott Engel, for introducing this bipartisan bill that we have before us this evening and for his continued leadership on this critical issue. This bill, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, will help the U.S. do its part to counter the smuggling and sale of stolen Syrian antiquities.

Specifically, the bill will improve coordination of U.S. efforts to protect cultural property and prevent these artifacts from being removed since the start of Syria's civil war from being sold or imported into this country, into the United States. It is important to note that the legislation's emergency import restrictions are not designed to continue into perpetuity and can be waived under certain conditions for the temporary safekeeping of cultural property within the United States.

I also want to make clear that this bill only restricts the import of certain Syrian antiquities that have been removed from that country during the current conflict. Nothing in this legislation is meant to interfere with the legal sale of antiquities that do not fall under this category nor with other aspects of the import process.

I want to again thank ELLIOTT ENGEL, the ranking member of our committee, for his work on this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 29, 2015.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 1493, the “Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act.” As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 1493 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 1493 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward

so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 29, 2015.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 1493, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1493 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2015.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Homeland Security in H.R. 1493, the "Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act." The bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security.

I recognize and appreciate the desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee on Homeland Security will not assert its jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1493 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation.

This waiver is also given with the understanding that the Committee on Homeland Security expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this or any similar legislation, and requests your support for such a request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1493, and ask that a copy of this

letter and your response be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 1493, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request of that bill to the Committee on Homeland Security.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1493 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2015.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 1493, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, as amended. I am writing to confirm that, although there are certain provisions in the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, the committee will forgo action on this bill in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration.

I am glad we agree that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee on Armed Services with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the provisions contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your support for the appointment of committee members to any House-Senate conference convened to consider such provisions.

Thank you for agreeing to place a copy of your letter acknowledging our jurisdictional interest, along with this response, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the measure on the House floor. I look forward to continuing to work together as this legislation moves toward final passage.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 29, 2015.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 1493, the Protect and Preserve

International Cultural Property Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1493 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2015.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE, I am writing with respect to H.R. 1493, the "Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act," which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 1493 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1493 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1493, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 1493.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 29, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 1493, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support

your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1493 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of my legislation, H.R. 1493, as amended, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we have worked very, very hard on this bill. This is a very, very important bill. So let me first thank Chairman ED ROYCE for his efforts to move this bill forward. He is a good partner on the committee, and we couldn't have gone this far without him. I also want to thank the lead cosponsors, Representative CHRIS SMITH and Representative BILL KEATING, who have been champions on this issue. I want to thank Mr. CHABOT for his support and his eloquence in speaking for the bill.

One of the things that we do on the Committee on Foreign Affairs is, whenever possible, we work in a bipartisan fashion, and this is a perfect example of working together in a bipartisan fashion for something that is really just so important.

Madam Speaker, by now we have all seen footage of ISIS extremists taking sledgehammers, as Mr. CHABOT mentioned, to ancient, irreplaceable artifacts across the territory they control. Now, these are not random acts of vandalism. We are witnessing a deliberate campaign to attempt to rewrite world history. From the tomb of Jonah in Mosul to Yazidi shrines in Sinjar, ISIS is leveling sites that preserve a record of the region's rich and diverse past. I think Mr. CHABOT put it very well when he said the same thing.

We have seen this tactic before. In Afghanistan, the Taliban wiped out the Bamiyan Buddhas in March of 2000. Who can forget that? During the Holocaust, the Nazis systematically targeted Jewish property as part of their effort to wipe out an entire race.

Now, some people will say why are we talking about the destruction of ancient ruins while so many people are suffering and dying at the hands of ISIS? That is not important. Of course, we need to stay focused on stopping the violence and alleviating the dire humanitarian situation festering across the region, but the reality is that we cannot separate these issues so easily. After all, before ISIS reduces these sites to rubble, the group loots everything they can carry, traffics the artifacts on the black market, and uses those resources to fund their violent rampage.

So it is directly connected to the murder and killing of so many civilians and their brutality. They use these artifacts to get money so that they can

keep their war machine going, so that they can keep their killings going, so that they can keep their brutality going. So the two are connected.

ISIS has ransacked thousands of artifacts from dozens of World Heritage Sites, places like cities of Mari and Dura Europos, which were virtually untouched before this crisis. These places are now lost to history, and their destruction has funneled, as I said before, millions of dollars into ISIS' coffers.

We need to cut off the source of funding and at the same time work to preserve this imperiled cultural history. There is already a good effort underway, a global effort underway.

In February, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution calling on governments to prohibit trade of cultural property looted from Syria and Iraq. The Security Council found that this step would reduce ISIS' operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks. Our Western allies have cracked down on traffickers trying to sell looted artifacts from Iraq and Syria. Now is the time for the United States to do more, and that is precisely what this bill does.

First of all, this bill takes steps to ensure the antiquities trafficking that is lining ISIS' pockets is not taking place within our borders. This legislation would impose tough, new import restrictions on cultural artifacts removed from Syria similar to restrictions we passed in 2004 with respect to Iraq. So we are doing the same thing that we did in Iraq in 2004 with Syria, trying to prevent these looted artifacts from funding the terrorist machine.

Nothing in this legislation would interfere with the legal sale or exhibition of antiquities that were not smuggled out of Syria during the current crisis, and there are exceptions to allow artifacts to come here for protection and restoration. These new rules would remain in effect until the crisis in Syria is resolved and America is able to work with a new Syrian Government to protect cultural property from trafficking under a bilateral agreement in accordance with America's national interests.

Secondly, this bill enhances collaboration among government agencies already working on this problem. This bill would bring together programs, from the Smithsonian, to the Pentagon, to Homeland Security, through a new interagency body with a single coordinator. It would improve congressional oversight to make sure we are efficient in the way we are addressing this challenge. These steps will not replace the authorities of existing bodies but will help ensure their programs work together effectively.

This bill represents the newest chapter in a long tradition. Since World War II, America has led the world in protecting historical property from those bent on its destruction. That leadership is needed today. We must act swiftly to confront this threat, to cut off a critical source of ISIS fund-

ing, to stand up to this barbaric brand of psychological warfare, and to stop those determined to rewrite history. I urge all colleagues to support this legislation.

I thank Mr. CHABOT again.

Madam Speaker, let me close by noting that with each passing day, ISIS is selling looted artifacts to the highest bidder, further financing death and destruction. Whatever is left behind, they reduce to rubble, leveling religious sites, digging up ancient cities, and erasing the last traces of long lost civilizations whose histories have remained in soil and sand for thousands of years, and these people destroy that.

We must stand up to these acts. We must do more to cut off ISIS' funding and save cultural property. That is why it is so important. To help achieve this effort, we need to pass H.R. 1493. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I would first ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 944.

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.

Madam Speaker, the whole world continues to recoil in horror at ISIS' depravity. The ancient cities that face destruction at its hands are considered the birthplace of modern civilization. Just weeks ago, ISIS conquered the ancient city of Palmyra, the so-called jewel of the desert. Recent reports that ISIS has not destroyed these sites may give some of us hope, but judging from their prior barbaric acts, it is probably just a matter of time before they do the same thing there as they have done so horrifically in other places.

The legislation before us today—and I again want to thank Mr. ENGEL for introducing the legislation—and oversight of the U.S. agencies responsible for recognizing and protecting cultural property, ensuring that such treasures are protected to the best of our ability, that is what this legislation would do.

I appreciate the other committees of jurisdiction for working with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on this measure, particularly the Committee on Ways and Means for its assistance on the critical import restrictions on this bill.

As Mr. ENGEL mentioned, when one is looking at this, we are looking at cultural things which have been—let's face it—destroyed forever. Some of these things are thousands of years old, and you can't bring them back. And you can't help but think—we are talking about physical things here, but we have also seen them do other horrific things.

When they take a Jordanian pilot and in a particularly barbaric fashion essentially set him on fire in a cage, when they take people out to a beach and one by one behead them, when they sell innocent women and young girls into slavery, over and over again, we have seen these horrific things happening, and it is time the world stood up to this group, both for the horrific things they are doing on historic artifacts which can't be brought back, but also the human lives that they have so callously extinguished. This group must be stopped. Let's hope that this evening we are at least taking a step in that direction.

I again thank Mr. ENGEL, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, as we vote on H.R. 1493 in the House today, I would like to share with you the series of unfortunate and barbaric events that have plagued The Cultural Museum of Mosul and robbed the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan of their historical lineage.

No stranger to war and tribal conflict, the people of Mosul, Iraq have suffered persecution and displacement under the Ottoman Empire, British colonial rule, and various tyrannical regimes. Despite all these hardships, Mosul was once a city of commercial importance to the region. Commerce and trade brought a rich exchange of history and culture to Mosul, which was preserved in the Museum of Mosul.

The museum provided a connection to a national identity and pride, which was once flourishing and prosperous. They say it is important to know your past so that you can learn from the mistakes of previous generations and better prepare for the future that is ahead. The people of Mosul were robbed of that opportunity in April of this year by ISIS. Just days before the reopening of the museum, which was looted during the Iraq War in 2003, ISIS released a horrific video showing militants using sledgehammers to demolish stone sculptures and other centuries-old artifacts.

The world watched in horror and disbelief as centuries of Assyrian history were obliterated in minutes. As we fight against the injustices perpetrated by ISIS militants around the world we must also fight to preserve the cultural integrity of these historical civilizations. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their dedication in preserving the historical treasures of the people of Mosul. ISIS has robbed these people of their freedoms but we must protect their past so that they may have a better future.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for his bill, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, H.R. 1493.

I am privileged to be the lead co-sponsor of this bill, just as I was last year.

This bill could not be more timely, given the depredations of ISIS that we see played out on our TV screens when we turn on the nightly news—the horrific beheadings and killing of Christians and other religious minorities such as Yazidis by Islamist fanatics.

These murderers help finance their terror in part by looting cultural antiquities and coins from areas of Syria and Iraq that they control.

Congress has already acted with respect to banning importation of “blood antiquities” from Iraq, which this bill would now extend to Syria. As such, this bill is part of the war on terror, helping to dry up sources of terror financing.

We also see that these fanatics will destroy what they cannot loot. This bill increases the inter-agency cooperation, including involvement of “Monuments Men” units of our armed forces, in striving to protect a cultural heritage which is part of our world's patrimony.

Finally, I want to highlight a provision of this bill that was not in the version we passed in the last Congress, but one which is an important addition, namely, a safe-harbor provision for those who seek to bring into the country important cultural artifacts that are being threatened with destruction. This safe harbor provision allows them to be placed in the temporary protective custody of the United States government or a museum.

I want to close by thanking Ranking Member ENGEL for introducing this important piece of legislation, and would like to thank him and all staff members who worked so hard on bringing this important legislation to the floor tonight.

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, H.R. 1493, 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.

REMEMBERING THE FIRE-FIGHTERS LOST IN HOUSTON'S FIRE OFF THE SOUTHWEST FREEWAY

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, May 31, 2013, 2 years ago yesterday, at 12:08 p.m., a call is made to Houston 911. A large fire was burning off the Southwest Freeway. At 12:11, 3 minutes later, station 51 arrived. At 12:16 p.m., 5 minutes after that, station 68 arrived. At 12:23, a mayday was heard over the radio. The roof had collapsed.

That call was the last alarm for four firefighters: Matthew Renaud, 35 years old, station 51; Robert Bebee, 41 years old, station 51 as well; Robert Garner, 29 years old, station 68; and a young lady from my hometown, Anne Sullivan, 24 years old, fire station 68. They are in God's hands, and we will never forget them.

□ 2015

HONORING RABBI LES GUTTERMAN

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Les Gutterman, my rabbi and a man who

has served for more than 40 years as the senior rabbi for Temple Beth-El in Providence, Rhode Island.

Rabbi Gutterman's unique insight and his sharp sense of humor have served the members of his congregation magnificently during times of personal struggle and times of great celebration.

As a member of the congregation at Temple Beth-El, I have often relied on Rabbi Gutterman's wise counsel and spiritual guidance, and I consider his friendship a great blessing in my life.

A native of Flint, Michigan, Rabbi Gutterman first came to Providence 45 years ago after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College.

At the time, just 27 years old, he could not have imagined the impact he would have on our State and on the families in his congregation. But just 3 years later, Rabbi Gutterman would be appointed the senior rabbi for Temple Beth-El, making him one of the youngest senior rabbis in the United States.

Today, he is known to all of us as “Rhode Island's rabbi,” a humble, caring servant of God who has tended to the spiritual needs of this great community for nearly half a century.

While we will miss his presence at Temple Beth-El, I know that all of us are wishing him, his wife Janet, and his daughters Rebecca and Elizabeth the very best as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement.

Thank you, Rabbi Gutterman, for your devotion to our community and for the gentle, caring guidance and love you have provided to us for so many years.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Speaker, with trade deals on the horizon, President Obama has asked Congress to grant him trade promotional authority, also called fast track, to “write the rules for the world's economy.” This measure would allow the President to pass sweeping trade partnerships without the input of the American people through their elected representatives in the normal process. Despite the various myths circulating about TPA, I sincerely believe that it is not in the best interest of our Nation, as written at this time.

You have heard it said that a vote against TPA is a vote against international trade, but actually, a vote against TPA is a vote for a better construct and trade agreement.

I am a strong supporter of trade when deals are negotiated strategically in the best interest of the United States economically, militarily, and diplomatically. With the President leaving office in just months, I have serious