

That is why we have made expanding access to education a part of our foreign policy. With this legislation, we are building on existing efforts and making sure administrations—this one and ones to come—will focus on this priority for many, many years to come.

So, again, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for always working with me hand in hand on important measures like this in a bipartisan fashion. I want to thank Congresswoman LOWEY for her hard work. She has been championing this for many, many years. I support this bill enthusiastically and urge all Members to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, again, want to thank NITA LOWEY and ELIOT ENGEL.

Today, more than 65 million men, women, and children around the globe have been displaced by conflict. This is the highest level of displacement on record—even more than during World War II.

It is critical that we continue to work with other countries and partners to help address the massive education deficit that so many children now face and that our efforts be as efficient and effective as possible. The Education for All Act outlines clear priorities for this work, with an emphasis on sustainability and alignment with U.S. diplomatic development and national security interests.

I urge Members to support this measure.

Again, I thank my colleagues for working on a bipartisan basis on the provisions here.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4481, 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.

DIGITAL GLOBAL ACCESS POLICY ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5537) to promote internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the internet, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5537

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 “Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2016” or the “Digital GAP Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to encourage the efforts of developing countries to improve mobile and fixed access to the internet in order to spur economic growth and job creation, improve health, education, and financial services, reduce poverty and gender inequality, mitigate disasters, promote democracy and good governance, strengthen cybersecurity, and update the Department of State's structure to address cyberspace policy.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 2005, the number of internet users has more than tripled from 1,000,000,000 to 3,200,000,000.

(2) 4.2 billion people, 60 percent of the world's population, remain offline and the growth rate of internet access is slowing. An estimated 75 percent of the offline population lives in just 20 countries and is largely rural, female, elderly, illiterate, and low-income.

(3) Studies suggest that across the developing world, women are nearly 50 percent less likely to access the internet than men living within the same communities, and that this digital gender divide carries with it a great economic cost. According to a study, “Women and the Web”, bringing an additional 600,000,000 women online would contribute \$13,000,000,000–\$18,000,000,000 to annual GDP across 144 developing countries.

(4) Without increased internet access, the developing world risks falling behind.

(5) Internet access in developing countries is hampered by a lack of infrastructure and a poor regulatory environment for investment.

(6) Build-once policies and approaches are policies or practices that minimize the number and scale of excavation and construction activities when installing telecommunications infrastructure in rights-of-way, thereby lowering the installation costs for high-speed internet networks and serve as a development best practice.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with the governments of foreign countries, international organizations, regional economic communities, businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders in a concerted effort to—

(1) promote first-time internet access to mobile or broadband internet for at least 1.5 billion people in developing countries by 2020 in both urban and rural areas;

(2) promote internet deployment and related coordination, capacity building, and build-once policies and approaches in developing countries, including actions to encourage—

(A) a build-once approach by standardizing the inclusion of broadband conduit pipes which house fiber optic communications cable that support broadband or wireless facilities for broadband service as part of rights-of-way projects, including sewers, power transmission facilities, rail, pipelines, bridges, tunnels, and roads, that are funded, co-funded, or partially financed by the United States or any international organization that includes the United States as a member, in consultation with telecommunications providers, unless a cost-benefit analysis determines that the cost of such approach outweighs the benefits;

(B) national and local government agencies of developing countries and donor governments and organizations to coordinate road building, pipe laying, and major infrastructure with the private sector so that, for example, fiber optic cable could be laid below roads at the time such roads are built; and

(C) international organizations to increase their financial support, including grants and loans, and technical assistance to expand information and communications access and internet connectivity;

(3) promote policy changes that encourage first-time affordable access to the internet in developing countries, including actions to encourage—

(A) integration of universal and gender-equitable internet access goals, to be informed by the collection of related gender disaggregated data, and internet tools into national development plans and United States Government country-level strategies;

(B) reforms of competition laws and spectrum allocation processes that may impede the ability of companies to provide internet services; and

(C) efforts to improve procurement processes to help attract and incentivize investment in internet infrastructure;

(4) promote the removal of tax and regulatory barriers to internet access;

(5) promote the use of the internet to increase economic growth and trade, including—

(A) policies and strategies to remove restrictions to e-commerce, cross-border information flows, and competitive marketplaces; and

(B) entrepreneurship and distance learning enabled by access to technology;

(6) promote the use of the internet to bolster democracy, government accountability, transparency, and human rights, including—

(A) policies, initiatives, and investments, including the development of national internet plans, that are consistent with United States human rights goals, including freedom of expression, religion, and association;

(B) policies and initiatives aimed at promoting the multistakeholder model of internet governance; and

(C) policies and support programs, research, and technologies that safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms online, and enable political organizing and activism, free speech, and religious expression that are in compliance with international human rights standards;

(7) promote internet access and inclusion into internet policymaking for women, people with disabilities, minorities, low-income and marginalized groups, and underserved populations; and

(8) promote cybersecurity and data protection, including international use of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity that are industry-led, globally recognized cybersecurity standards and best practices.

SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ORGANIZATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should redesignate an existing Assistant Secretary position to be the Assistant Secretary for Cyberspace to lead the Department of State's diplomatic cyberspace policy generally, including for cybersecurity, internet access, internet freedom, and to promote an open, secure, and reliable information and communications technology infrastructure.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In recognition of the added value of technical knowledge and expertise in the policymaking and diplomatic channels, the Secretary of State should—

(1) update existing training programs relevant to policy discussions; and

(2) promote the recruitment of candidates with technical expertise into the Civil Service and the Foreign Service.

(c) OFFSET.—To offset any costs incurred by the Department of State to carry out the designation of an Assistant Secretary for Cyberspace in accordance with subsection

(a), the Secretary of State shall eliminate such positions within the Department of State, unless otherwise authorized or required by law, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to fully offset such costs.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The redesignation of the Assistant Secretary position described in subsection (a) may not be construed as increasing the number of Assistant Secretary positions at the Department of State above the current level of 24 as authorized in section 1(c)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)(1)).

SEC. 6. USAID.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should—

(1) integrate efforts to expand internet access, develop appropriate technologies, and enhance digital literacy into the education, development, and economic growth programs of the agency, where appropriate;

(2) expand the utilization of information and communications technologies in humanitarian aid and disaster relief responses and United States operations involving stabilization and security to improve donor coordination, reduce duplication and waste, capture and share lessons learned, and augment disaster preparedness and risk mitigation strategies; and

(3) establish and promote guidelines for the protection of personal information of individuals served by humanitarian, disaster, and development programs directly through the United States Government, through contracts funded by the United States Government and by international organizations.

SEC. 7. PEACE CORPS.

Section 3 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2502) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (e); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(f) It is the sense of Congress that access to technology can transform agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development which are the sectors in which Peace Corps currently develops positions for Volunteers.

“(g) In giving attention to the programs, projects, training, and other activities referred to in subsection (f), the Peace Corps should develop positions for Volunteers that are focused on leveraging technology for development, education, and social and economic mobility.”.

SEC. 8. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

In pursuing the policy described in section 4, the President should direct United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to increase efforts to promote gender-equitable internet access, in partnership with stakeholders and consistent with host countries' absorptive capacity;

(2) enhance coordination with stakeholders in increasing affordable and gender-equitable access to the internet;

(3) integrate gender-equitable affordable internet access into existing economic and business assessments, evaluations, and indexes such as the Millennium Challenge Corporation constraints analysis, the Doing Business Report, International Monetary Fund Article IV assessments and country reports, the Open Data Barometer, and the Affordability Drivers Index;

(4) standardize inclusion of broadband conduit—fiber optic cables that support broadband or wireless facilities for

broadband service—as part of highway or highway-comparable construction projects in developing countries, in consultation with telecommunications providers, unless such inclusion would create an undue burden, is not necessary based on the availability of existing broadband infrastructure, or a cost-benefit analysis determines that the cost outweighs the benefits;

(5) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities in developing countries to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially viable projects and strengthen weak regulations or develop new ones to support market growth and development;

(6) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets, including targets with gender-disaggregated metrics, to measure the effectiveness of efforts to promote internet access; and

(7) promote and protect human rights online, such as the freedoms of speech, assembly, association, religion, and belief, through resolutions, public statements, projects, and initiatives, and advocating that other member states of such bodies are held accountable when major violations are uncovered.

SEC. 9. PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate plans to promote partnerships by United States development agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, as well as international agencies funded by the United States Government for partnership with stakeholders, that contain the following elements:

(1) Methods for stakeholders to partner with such agencies in order to provide internet access or internet infrastructure in developing countries.

(2) Methods of outreach to stakeholders to explore partnership opportunities for expanding internet access or internet infrastructure, including coordination with the private sector, when financing roads and telecommunications infrastructure.

(3) Methods for early consultation with stakeholders concerning projects in telecommunications and road construction to provide internet access or internet infrastructure.

SEC. 10. REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on efforts to implement the policy specified in section 4 and a discussion of the plans and existing efforts by the United States Government in developing countries to accomplish the following:

(1) Develop a technical and regulatory road map for promoting internet access in developing countries and a path to implementing such road map.

(2) Identify the regulatory barriers that may unduly impede internet access, including regulation of wireline broadband deployment or the infrastructure to augment wireless broadband deployment.

(3) Strengthen and support development of regulations that incentivize market growth and sector development.

(4) Encourage further public and private investment in internet infrastructure, including broadband networks and services.

(5) Increase gender-equitable internet access and otherwise encourage or support

internet deployment, competition, and adoption.

(6) Improve the affordability of internet access.

(7) Promote technology and cybersecurity capacity building efforts and consult technical experts for advice regarding options to accelerate the advancement of internet deployment, adoption, and usage.

(8) Promote internet freedom globally and include civil society and the private sector in the formulation of policies, projects, and advocacy efforts to protect human rights online.

(9) Promote and strengthen the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance and actively participate in multistakeholder international fora, such as the Internet Governance Forum.

SEC. 11. CYBERSPACE STRATEGY.

The President should include in the next White House Cyberspace Strategy information relating to the following:

(1) Methods to promote internet access in developing countries.

(2) Methods to globally promote cybersecurity policy consistent with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity.

(3) Methods to promote global internet freedom principles, such as the freedoms of expression, assembly, association, and religion, while combating efforts to impose restrictions on such freedoms.

SEC. 12. DEFINITION.

In this Act—

(1) **BUILD ONCE POLICIES AND APPROACHES.**—The term “build once policies and approaches” means policies or practices that minimize the number and scale of excavation and construction activities when installing telecommunications infrastructure in rights-of-way.

(2) **CYBERSPACE.**—The term “cyberspace” means the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures, and includes the internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers in critical industries, and includes the virtual environment of information and interactions between people.

(3) **STAKEHOLDERS.**—The term “stakeholders” means the private sector, the public sector, cooperatives, civil society, the technical community that develops internet technologies, standards, implementation, operations, and applications, and other groups that are working to increase internet access or are impacted by the lack of internet access in their communities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1730

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the author of this measure, I want to particularly recognize the invaluable contributions of the professional staff. I mentioned Jessica Kelch, but there is another staff member here who has played an outsized role to help shape the work of this committee, and not just on the Digital GAP Act, which is before us, but Nilmini Rubin has played a critical role in energy, in trade, in development legislation that we have passed out of the committee, and so I wanted to recognize her for that contribution.

I also want to focus the attention of the Members on the fact that more than 60 percent of the world's population still lacks access to the Internet. That is 3 billion people left out of one of the largest technological transformations of our time, leaving them lagging on economic growth, lagging on health, lagging in terms of potential for education.

The dearth of global Internet access negatively impacts us here at home, too. Sixty percent of the world's population can't buy American goods online, if you think about it. They are shut out of e-commerce. They are limited in their ability to connect with others through social media.

So the Digital Global Access Policy Act calls on the administration to integrate into U.S. development efforts a "build-once" policy when expanding Internet access, and this is common sense.

If a U.S. development project supports the construction of a rural road, let's invite the private sector to lay down cable before our government helps pay to pour the concrete. We are maximizing U.S. taxpayer dollar assistance; we are providing more support to the disadvantaged community; we are making it easier for business to invest if we change our policies to do this.

This bill complements existing efforts to promote partnerships with the private sector to expand Internet access through the Global Connect Initiative.

One of the many letters of support we received was from NetHope, which outlined why the build-once approach in the Digital GAP Act is so important. As NetHope's letter explained, years ago, a \$100 million road construction project in Liberia failed to include the laying of fiber-optic lines as a part of the project. At the time, the cost of laying this cable would have been negligible. It would have been maybe 1 percent of the total investment. It would have been—I don't know—probably not even a million.

However, you know, if you look back, this is one example of many that we pulled out of the file where the donors chose not to include the Internet infrastructure in the project; and so, as a result, when you go to Liberia, as I have, there is poor Internet access, a fact that hampered Ebola response efforts as community health centers struggled to coordinate their efforts.

If that Internet access were in place, it would have helped the U.S. and pub-

lic health officials safely track the spread of Ebola. It could have reduced the disease's spread. It could have saved lives.

As NetHope explained, there is now a new project under consideration to do that same connectivity work that would have cost—would have been negligible if it had been laid at the time that the road was put in. However, since it is being considered after the fact, it will now cost tens of millions of dollars if it is done, and it will take years and years to complete.

The build-once approach is smart economics. It is smart development. We simply get more bang for our buck when we coordinate these types of infrastructure investments with the private sector. So I think the case is compelling for this.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, first of all, want to thank our chairman, Ed ROYCE, from California. He has worked very, very hard on this bill for a long, long time, so I am very pleased to support this bill that he has introduced to help expand access to the Internet around the world. I know how strongly he feels about it. We all share his goal, but he was the impetus, obviously, for this bill, and this is really a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, a generation ago, few could have envisioned the way the Internet would open up new gateways for information, connect people around the world, and change the global economy.

Today, a classroom with broadband access gives students a window to the rest of the world, allowing them to build relationships face-to-face with people thousands and thousands of miles away. A relief worker with a smartphone can relay information in an instant about where help and resources are needed to deal with a crisis. A farmer with a laptop can make sure his or her produce is fetching a fair price on the global market. A journalist in a closed society who can get online can shine a light on abuses and corruption.

And while we know this tool can be used for harm, such as the way ISIS uses social media to recruit fighters and spread propaganda, we also know that, in the right hands, the Internet expands opportunity, drives growth, and makes people's lives fuller and more productive. The ripple effects help strengthen communities and countries.

But like so many resources around the world, access to the Internet often depends on where you live and what you have and if you can afford it. Living in a poor community or a rural area, or even being a woman in some places, may make it harder to take advantage of the Internet.

Roughly 60 percent of the world's population is not able to use this tool,

and the growth rate of Internet access is slowing down. Three-quarters of those who are offline live in just 20 countries. Think of what a difference it would make if these populations had access to a resource so many of us take for granted. This bill aims to close that gap.

Chairman ROYCE's legislation calls on the administration to ramp up efforts around the world to expand access to the Internet. It encourages the State Department, USAID, and the Peace Corps to focus on Internet access as a diplomatic and developmental priority; and it states clearly, expanding Internet access, especially in the developing world, is an American foreign policy priority.

I applaud Chairman ROYCE for doing this, and I am glad to support this measure.

I want to also thank two staff persons for their hard work: Nilmini Rubin on the majority's staff, and Janice Kaguyutan on our side. They both worked very, very hard, and I think they deserve special mention.

So I urge all my colleagues to support this very important bill. I, again, commend Chairman ROYCE for working so hard on it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As I said before, the way the Internet has changed the world would have been hard to believe just a few decades ago. It would also have been hard to believe that we would be thinking of the Internet as a foreign policy priority, but we can and we should.

Today, we know that the Internet has driven so much of the interconnectedness that we now see across the global landscape, so it is important that our foreign policy keep up with these changes. We want to see this tool used in a positive way by as many people as possible, while guarding against abuses or exploitation by those who mean to harm us.

This bill helps us move in the right direction. Again, I am grateful to the chairman for bringing it forward. I am glad to support it. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would like to thank the cosponsors of the Digital GAP Act who helped me with this legislation, and the first among them is Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, and then also CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, Representative GRACE MENG, and Chairman MCCAUL for their collaboration on this bill.

The Digital GAP Act would increase Internet access with a relatively minor communications change. It would require that the United States-supported infrastructure projects are made transparent so that the private sector can

coordinate their investments in Internet infrastructure. This is a common-sense approach that we should implement now.

The Digital GAP Act also expresses the sense of Congress that the State Department should elevate and reform its efforts to address cyberspace policy internationally. As technological policy issues multiply and as they become more complex, it is important to identify clear lines of responsibility at the State Department so that problems do not fall between the cracks of the many different offices that touch on these issues now. Cybersecurity, Internet freedom, and Internet access are now core parts of our national security agenda and need to be treated as such by the State Department.

Lastly, I will simply close by again recognizing the work of Nilmini Rubin on this legislation. She has been with the committee for over 3 years. She has done outstanding work on technology and trade and other issues promoting development worldwide. Nilmini will be leaving us and will be greatly missed, but she will be continuing to do impressive and important things, improving lives overseas and improving the welfare of Americans.

Thank you, Nilmini.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HILL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5537, 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.

AGOA ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2845) to promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2845

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 “AGOA Enhancement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to support efforts to—

(1) improve the rule of law, promote free and fair elections, strengthen and expand the private sector, and fight corruption in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(2) promote the role of women in social, political, and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.

SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRANSPARENCY.

(a) AGOA WEBSITE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a website for the collection and dissemination of information regarding the African Growth and Opportunity Act (in this section referred to as the “AGOA website”).

(2) CONTENTS.—The President shall publish on the AGOA website the information described in paragraph (1), including—

(A) information and technical assistance provided at United States Agency for International Development regional trade hubs; and

(B) a link to websites of United States embassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African countries.

(3) ACTIONS BY UNITED STATES EMBASSIES.—The Secretary of State should direct United States embassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African countries to—

(A) promote the use by such countries of the benefits available under the African Growth and Opportunity Act; and

(B) include on a publicly available Internet website of such diplomatic missions a link to the AGOA website.

(b) AGOA FORUM.—The President should, after each meeting of the United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, publish on the AGOA website established under subsection (a) the following:

(1) All outcomes of the meeting of the Forum, including any commitments made by member countries and the private sector.

(2) An assessment of progress made with respect to any commitments made by member countries and the private sector from the previous meeting of the Forum.

(c) OTHER INFORMATION.—The President should disseminate information required by this section in a digital format to the public and publish such information on the AGOA website established under subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible sub-Saharan African country” means a country that the President has determined meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President should take the following actions:

(1) Develop and implement policies to—

(A) encourage and facilitate trans-boundary cooperation among eligible sub-Saharan African countries in order to facilitate trade; and

(B) encourage the provision of technical assistance to eligible sub-Saharan African countries to establish and sustain adequate trade capacity development.

(2) Provide specific training for business in eligible sub-Saharan African countries and government trade officials of eligible sub-Saharan African countries on utilizing access to the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and other trade preference programs.

(3) Provide capacity building for African entrepreneurs and trade associations on production strategies, quality standards, formation of cooperatives, and market research and market development.

(4) Provide capacity building training to promote diversification of African products and value-added processing.

(5) Provide capacity building and technical assistance funding for African businesses and institutions to help such businesses and institutions comply with United States counter-terrorism initiatives and policies.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible sub-Saharan African country” means a country that the President has determined meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

SEC. 5. CONCURRENT COMPACTS UNDER THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACT OF 2003.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 609 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708) is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence of subsection (k);

(2) by redesignating subsection (k) (as so amended) as subsection (l); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

“(k) CONCURRENT COMPACTS.—An eligible country that has entered into and has in effect a Compact under this section may enter into and have in effect at the same time not more than one additional Compact in accordance with the requirements of this title if—

“(1) one or both of the Compacts are or will be for purposes of regional economic integration, increased regional trade, or cross-border collaborations; and

“(2) the Board determines that the country is making considerable and demonstrable progress in implementing the terms of the existing Compact and supplementary agreements thereto.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 613(b)(2)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7712(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “the” before “Compact” and inserting “any”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section apply with respect to Compacts entered into between the United States and an eligible country under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. BASS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

I would just begin by thanking Congresswoman BASS for her important work on this initiative. I am proud to have been part of the African Growth and Opportunity Act coalition. I have been part of that coalition since 2000, when we wrote the original bill.

I would also just recognize Tom Sheehy for his contribution on this, our professional staff member.

But AGOA allows African countries that respect the rule of law and respect free market principles to export many goods to the United States on a duty-free basis. The program has boosted Africa's economic growth, and especially benefiting women.

I can tell you from my trips there and seeing the results, it has strengthened the trade relationship between the United States and Africa, which is several multiples today of what it was when the bill was originally passed.

When Congress reauthorized AGOA earlier this year, I successfully pressed, along with my colleague Congresswoman KAREN BASS, for a 10-year extension; and this extension will provide