

the top of the 10th inning in Game 7 of the World Series, Zobrist roped an RBI double giving the Cubs the decisive run in the 8-7 victory that won their team its first World Series championship since 1908.

Ben Zobrist is a native of Eureka, Illinois, located in my congressional district. The four-sport Eureka High School athlete went on to play baseball at Dallas Baptist University before launching his major league career.

More admirable than his talent is his character. In Major League Baseball, Zobrist has represented the sport with true midwestern values. Ben is both a devout man of faith and a family man devoted to his wife and three children. Ben Zobrist's commitment to God, family, and baseball make him not just a hero for his hometown of Eureka, Illinois, but a man that all of America can respect and admire.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE). 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.

URGING RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 780) urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 780

Whereas given its size, location, and diverse economy, the United States has deep interests in the democratic stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);

Whereas from 1996 to 2006, more than 3,000,000 people died in the DRC as a result of internal and regional wars, and significant violence persists in the Eastern Congo;

Whereas a root cause of these conflicts was the decay of the undemocratic and corrupt regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko;

Whereas in 2002 the United States, working with African and European partners, helped facilitate a Congo peace accord that included a democratic transition and free elections under a new constitution limiting the President to two terms by an unamendable provision and providing for the President of the Senate to assume power temporarily until elections can be held once a Presidential vacancy is declared;

Whereas in 2006 Joseph Kabila was elected President in what was widely viewed as a free and fair election, but many respected international observers concluded that his 2011 election "victory" was "not credible";

Whereas President Kabila's second term will end on December 19, 2016, after which his

government can no longer be considered the constitutionally legitimate representative of the Congolese people;

Whereas President Kabila has yet to declare unequivocally and publicly that he will step down at the end of his term, as required by the constitution, causing growing political tension, unrest, and violence across the country;

Whereas during the summer of 2014, President Kabila tried unsuccessfully to persuade parliament to change the constitution to open the way for his continuation in power after his term expires on December 19, 2016, and subsequently attempted to pass a law requiring a multiyear census in advance of the Presidential election—an effort that was dropped in January 2015 after mass demonstrations in which Kabila's security forces killed at least 42 people and arbitrarily jailed hundreds;

Whereas since January 2015, in further steps to undermine democratic processes and institutions, Congolese security and intelligence officials have clamped down on peaceful activists, political leaders, and others who oppose President Kabila's effort to stay in power past his constitutionally mandated two-term limit;

Whereas since January 2015 President Kabila has continually used administrative and technical means to try to delay the Presidential election (including an overloaded, unfeasible multielection calendar, failure to pass timely election laws and release authorized election budgets, abruptly implementing the division of the country's provinces, and having his "Independent National Election Commission" recently declare that it will take 16 months to update the voter roll);

Whereas the broad national dialogue convened by President Kabila served as another means of justifying a delay of the scheduled November 2016 elections despite the widespread withdrawal of participation by opposition parties and church leaders;

Whereas President Obama spoke with President Kabila on March 15, 2015, and "emphasized the importance of timely, credible, and peaceful elections that respect the DRC's constitution and protect the rights of all DRC citizens";

Whereas President Kabila is calling for a broad national dialogue that could be used to confuse the election issue and serve as yet another means of delaying the scheduled November 2016 elections;

Whereas international and domestic human rights groups continually report on the worsening of the situation with regard to human rights in the DRC, including the use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators and an increase in politically motivated trials and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has registered more than 260 human rights violations, mainly against political opponents, civil society, and journalists during the past year;

Whereas the DRC retains a relatively vibrant civil society that is exerting pressure on the government, and is at risk of being stamped out due to government repression consistent with President Kabila's attempt to remain in power;

Whereas leaders of Congo's main opposition parties, nongovernmental organizations, and prodemocracy youth movements called on Congolese citizens to stay home from work and school on February 16, 2016, for "Ville Morte (Dead City Day)" largely to protest against delays in organizing Presidential elections;

Whereas the strike was largely successful in major Congolese cities despite government detentions and threats;

Whereas, on March 10, 2016, the European Union Parliament adopted a resolution that urged the European Union to "use all its diplomatic and economic tools" in favor of "compliance with the constitution of the DRC" and invited African Union member states to also become engaged in the effort to advance this goal;

Whereas the European Union Parliament resolution also called upon the European Union "to consider imposing targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, so as to help prevent further violence";

Whereas, on March 30, 2016, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2277, expressing "deep concern" about "delays in the Presidential election" and "increased restriction of the political space in the DRC" and calling for "ensuring the successful and timely holding" of Presidential and legislative elections "in accordance with the Constitution";

Whereas, on June 23, 2016, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned General Celestin Kanyama of the Congolese National Police for his role in targeting of civilian protesters;

Whereas, on September 28, 2016, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned Major General Gabriel Amisi Kumba and General John Numbi for leading an armed group that has threatened the stability of the DRC and violently suppressing political opposition, respectively;

Whereas the DRC's Independent National Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court have validated the indefinite postponement of the scheduled November 2016 elections; and

Whereas the Kabila government has stated that the elections may now take place as late as 2018, potentially extending his mandate by as much as two years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) under Executive Order 13413, as amended by Executive Order 13671, in coordination to the maximum extent possible with its African and European partners, the United States should impose sanctions on government officials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who impede progress toward a peaceful democratic transition through credible elections that respect the will of the people of the DRC;

(2) sanctions should target core figures in the government of President Kabila for visa denials and for asset freezes because of actions that "undermine democratic processes or institutions";

(3) economic and security assistance provided to the DRC government should be reviewed for possible termination, while preserving other, particularly humanitarian, assistance through nongovernmental and international organizations, and review future international financial institution assistance to the DRC until the election crisis is resolved;

(4) the President should lift sanctions only when the President determines that—

(A) President Kabila has unequivocally and publicly declared that, in accordance with the constitution, he will not remain in power once his term ends on December 19, 2016, has made verifiable progress on the ground towards holding timely free and fair national elections in accordance with the constitution, and has demonstrably opened the necessary political space for the opposition and civil society; or

(B) the DRC has held a free and fair Presidential election as provided by the constitution and a new President has been sworn in;

(5) if President Kabila's government meets the condition specified in paragraph (4)(A), the United States should join other donors in helping to support election preparedness, including voter registration and supporting a level playing field for campaign activities by diverse political parties;

(6) the United States Government should support independent DRC civil society organizations and media to more effectively monitor efforts to undermine democracy and governance;

(7) the United States Government should use authorities under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, chapter X of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, and the section 1956 of title 18, United States Code, to investigate and target money laundering activities, specifically related to the diversion of proceeds of corruption, by key figures close to President Kabila;

(8) these authorities should be employed to target the financial institutions facilitating money laundering by these figures as well as to pressure the jurisdictions in which they are located to monitor this activity and take enforcement action as appropriate; and

(9) the United States should coordinate these efforts with key Western and African partners, including through other financial intelligence units.

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.

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.

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, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 780. I would like to recognize Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member BASS of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee for their continued focus on the continuing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and I would like to recognize our ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, as well, because, Mr. Speaker, Congo is facing a constitutional crisis that is putting lives and regional stability at risk.

I have been to the Congo on three occasions, most recently last year, and we have pressed this issue repeatedly, and sadly, Congo, having historically suffered some of the world's longest and most brutal wars, is all too familiar with violence. Now, while the Congolese people are trying to chart a new path for their country, government leaders are maneuvering to maintain their grip on power in violation of the country's constitution.

Congo's constitution is very clear—the transfer of power must happen on December 19 of this year and the President is limited there to two terms. But President Kabila—in power now for

over 15 years—is stonewalling the election process to get around the constitution. Allowing this crooked plan to proceed without any consequences would set a terrible precedent for democracy and governance throughout the region.

President Kabila has shown that he is willing to carry out this plan by any means necessary. Anyone who interferes—opposition figures, human rights leaders, peaceful protesters, civil society, the media—risks arbitrary arrest, and they risk death. More than 50 people were killed in a 2-day government crackdown in September.

But throughout, the Congolese people have made it clear that they want elections—with the vast majority of Congolese opposed to amending the constitution to allow Mr. Kabila to extend his term. They are determined to express their will at the ballot box. This resolution puts the House on record supporting the Congolese people in their desire for a peaceful political transition.

Mr. Speaker, the House is considering this resolution at a very crucial time. If no clear plan is established for a peaceful transition of power in the coming weeks, analysts fear wide scale instability and violence. We are already seeing that instability today, and that is threatening to send the international investment that has recently returned to the country away.

The Obama administration has recognized the severity of this crisis, establishing an executive order which targets those DRC leaders who impede the democratic transition with sanctions. This resolution welcomes those sanctions, but also encourages the administration to look at other sanctionable offenses like corruption and money laundering.

The political elites in Congo have long pillaged the country's vast natural resources for their personal enrichment. Putting that wealth at risk might make them think twice about also undermining democracy. That is the kind of leverage that this resolution intends to encourage.

Moreover, the resolution recommends that assistance which is non-humanitarian—we want the humanitarian assistance to continue, but non-humanitarian assistance could potentially be cut if the Congolese Government does not change course and does not allow democracy to move forward. The U.S. needs to use any and all leverage it has to use this opportunity to push for timely elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning House Resolution 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the measure that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the measure so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H. Res. 780 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or a similar measure moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 780 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be placed in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

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

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 780 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I write with respect to H. Res. 780, a resolution urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Financial Services. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H. Res. 780 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of this resolution 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. Res. 780 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

resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 780 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. Res. 780.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

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

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 780 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

Let me start by thanking our chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, for his leadership. I had the good occasion to travel with him to Congo last year, and we pushed very, very hard on the fact that we believe democracy needs to be carried out there.

In fact, the President of Congo, who is running for an unprecedented third term, which he is not supposed to do according to their Constitution, opted not to see us because he was angry at the fact that we came to Congo and spoke out so heavily, with one voice I might say, for democratic reforms. That has been the tradition of the Foreign Affairs Committee during the time that Chairman ROYCE has been chairman and I have been ranking member. We speak with one voice on most things, and we are more effective that way.

I think that foreign policy, especially, should be bipartisan and partisanship should stop at the water's edge. So we, personally, the two of us and the colleagues that came with us on the trip, drove that message home to the President of Congo. We met with the Prime Minister, and we didn't mince our words.

So I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership. I want to thank the chair and ranking member of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human

Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. BASS of California for her hard work in bringing this measure to the floor.

As I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, in recent months, protesters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have faced an increasingly violent crackdown at the hands of armed authorities. These people are protesting, again, the illegal third-term grab by the President of Congo. Citizens have been subject to arbitrary arrest, and civil society groups are finding it harder and harder to operate. In just over a month, when President Joseph Kabila's term expires, I fear that this instability will grow even worse.

We want to see democracy thrive and the constitution prevail in the DRC, but we know forces are hard at work to tear that country's democracy down. This resolution sends a message that the United States is watching this situation closely. Those who try to undermine democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo won't get a free pass from us.

This measure calls for U.S. sanctions on core government and opposition officials who hinder democratic processes or stand in the way of progress toward a peaceful democratic transition. It calls for sanctions to remain in place until President Kabila declares that he will abide by the constitution and step down on December 19—until there is verifiable progress toward holding a free and fair election and until the opposition and civil society groups are free to operate without interference.

Lastly, this resolution requests that our government support civil society groups and the media so that the DRC citizens and the world have a clear picture of democracy and governance.

I am glad to support this timely resolution.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and author of this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE; Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL; and Ms. BASS, who is the ranking member on the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, for their strong support for this legislation, H. Res. 780, which seeks to avoid a looming crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC, by urging respect for the constitution of that country in a peaceful, democratic transition of power.

Mr. Speaker, on November 19—just days from now—the DRC was supposed to hold elections for President and the Parliament. However, after stalling on

election preparations for more than a year, the government of President Kabila has used a constitutional loophole to extend his rule despite the opposition of not only political opponents but also his country's citizens.

In a recent poll done in partnership with the Congo Research Group at New York University, President Kabila had less than 8 percent support among his people. U.S. officials believe that he has lost even more support in the months since that poll was taken.

Mr. Speaker, from 1996 to 2006, more than 3 million people died in the DRC, more than 4 million were internally displaced as a result of internal and regional wars, and significant violence persists in eastern Congo today—a place that I have visited. There are now widespread fears that opposition to the extension of Kabila's rule will spark demonstrations that will be met by violence by a government determined to maintain its hold on power. We are facing the real danger that the DRC—a nation that borders on nine of its neighbors and which makes vital contributions to the global economy—could be thrown into a level of chaos that will have an adverse impact not just within its borders but far beyond its borders as well.

□ 1230

President Kabila continues to make every effort to maintain power, even sending delegations abroad to mislead foreign governments on his intention to hold elections at the earliest possible date. His emissaries assured us in September that the scheduled 2016 elections could be held in the summer of 2017 as a result of national dialogue. However, Kabila manipulated this dialogue, which was boycotted by the genuine political opposition, civil society, and DRC's churches. The eventual conclusion, if this can be believed, was that the elections would be held in late 2018, about 2 years from now.

However, the constitution, which prevents Kabila from running for a third term or changing the constitution to achieve that goal, will be broken if he manages to extend his rule. Even as he interprets the constitution to allow him to continue in office, the constitution makes no provision for parliament to continue to operate. So when the current DRC Government mandate expires on December 19, President Kabila will rule his country with no restraint and no checks or balances from a legislative body.

H. Res. 780 acknowledges the various efforts to frustrate DRC's constitution and democratic process and calls for the Obama administration to levy targeted sanctions on government officials who have acted to prevent free and fair elections from taking place.

The administration has placed some sanctions on some officials, but the pace and scope of sanctions need to match the urgency of the approaching electoral crisis. The leadership of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Africa, Global Health, Global Human

Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, and the full Foreign Affairs Committee have sent a letter to President Obama urging him to widen the targets, and we recommended that a couple of weeks ago.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, time is running out for our government to make the strongest possible statements to the Kabila government to achieve a peaceful, democratic resolution to the crisis that they face. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), the ranking member of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleagues—Mr. SMITH, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL—for their leadership on this resolution.

I rise in support of H. Res. 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its democratic transition of power in 2016.

Simply stated, the resolution calls for the United States' President to use targeted sanctions to address the blatant disrespect for the people in the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as evidenced by the current President of that country, Joseph Kabila. By supporting this critical resolution, we are helping to support the constitutional rights of the citizens of the DRC.

This massive and extraordinarily mineral-rich country is home to approximately 80 million people. Were it not for the consistent absence of democratic and economic good governance, this beautiful country would serve more fittingly as the economic center of gravity for sub-Saharan Africa's Central Africa region, as opposed to being seen at the center of political impunity, increasing human rights concerns, and predictable intraregional tensions.

The violence of the last decade has adversely affected not only the economically dynamic and creative culture of the DRC, but arguably affected those countries in the immediate region, such as South Sudan, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, and Burundi. Despite a long history of authoritarian leadership of President Mobutu, a regime, unfortunately, that we supported, we know that the majority of the people of the DRC support a growing and empowered civil society.

Over the past year, the country's expanding civil society successfully orchestrated a series of civic actions in support of constitutionally legislated elections scheduled for this December. For his part, President Kabila has used the past year to attempt, systematically, to undermine the persistent efforts of civil society and opposition parties in support of presidential elections.

While President Kabila's intention is to secure an extension of his presi-

dential term and delay scheduled elections, the purpose of the resolution is to help prevent the impunity demonstrated by President Kabila and some DRC officials. The resolution calls for the President, working with African and European partners, to use Executive Order 13413, as amended, to deny visas, freeze assets of the implicated officials, and monitor economic and security assistance for the country until the election crisis is resolved. H. Res. 780 is a critical piece of legislation drafted to address a crucial situation in the DRC.

Once again, I thank the subcommittee chairman, CHRIS SMITH, for his leadership on this issue.

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

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

In closing, the situation simmering right now in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is such a good example of why the United States can never retreat from our role on the world stage. This is a situation that doesn't touch most Americans directly, so why should we be focused on it, some might wonder. Because anytime and anywhere democracy is under threat, it makes the world a little less safe, it makes regions a little less stable, and it makes populations a little more vulnerable.

Standing up for democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—or anywhere else, for that matter—isn't just good for the people of that country, it is good for all of us. It helps advance American values and American interests. We believe in democracy. And it helps when other countries practice what they preach.

So when people on the ground are fighting for democracy, demanding transparency of their leaders, and trying to make their societies more open and inclusive, we are going to have their backs, and it is what we should be doing. That is what the U.S. does. That is what our values demand. That is what it means to be the global standard bearer for freedom and democracy.

I am glad to support this measure. I again thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. BASS. I urge all Members 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 want to thank Representative SMITH for introducing this important measure and for being a longtime champion on African issues.

I again want to thank Mr. ELIOT ENGEL for his forceful communication when we were in Congo on that issue. Frankly, we have had the opportunity to talk to Joseph Kabila in the past. He wouldn't meet with us on this trip, although we were able to meet with the other representatives of the government, as Mr. ENGEL has laid out.

But if I could talk to Joseph Kabila, what I would share with him is that we should not forget that Nelson Mandela

made that decision himself to step down after a single term—after a single term—despite his immense popularity as President. And far from ending his career, his decision represented a transition toward continentwide public service. He became the mediator in African conflicts. He became a prominent voice on health and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, you have seen this as well.

I think that President Mandela's choice to step down just as much as his personal struggle, the personal struggle that Nelson Mandela went through, the combination of those two factors is what allowed him to continue to exert strong moral and diplomatic influence not only in his home country, but across Africa and across the world. If Joseph Kabila would reflect on that by way of example—because, tragically, too many leaders around this globe have failed to heed the wisdom of Nelson Mandela and other staged statesmen of different places and different times, but in this country we go back to George Washington—the result of heeding that, the result of violating the law in one's country, the result of clinging on to power when the constitution says no and canceling elections when the constitution calls for those elections, is to result in negative consequences not just for the government and the people, but, frankly, negative consequences for their own standing as human beings as well.

So there is that possibility for President Kabila to move forward, to do the right thing. That is what we call upon him to do. That is our request. It is not too late for President Kabila and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to change course. This resolution supports those seeking an orderly transfer of power in this important country on the African continent.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 780, "Urging Respect for the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Democratic Transition of Power in 2016."

H. Res. 780 encourages the United States Government to impose sanctions on government officials of the Democratic Republic of Congo who continue to violate the civil rights of the Congolese people.

The right to free and fair elections is a crucial element of any democracy.

When the right to vote is curtailed, democracy cannot flourish.

The constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo, guarantees to its citizens the right to vote and the right to choose their leaders in a free and open election.

The current president of the DRC, Joseph Kabila, succeeded his father in 2001, following his assassination.

The highest court in the nation determined that if elections are delayed then President Kabila could remain in power until elections are held.

President Kabila's term ends in December, and elections were set for November.

Unable to constitutionally seek a third term, President Kabila and his officials are delaying

elections, citing financial problems, as a way to retain power.

His decision not to hold elections has led to political turmoil, violence and the death of dozens of people.

Human Rights Watch reported that at least 44 people have died during political demonstrations.

The Constitution was adopted to avoid the troubling onslaught of violence occurring in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which, in its 56 years since independence, has never experienced a peaceful transition of power.

Wherever there is a threat to freedom and democracy, it is the tradition of the United States to assist, to the furthest possible extent, freedom loving people in achieving their democratic aspirations.

President Joseph Kabila and other government officials have violated the rights of the Congolese people, and the law of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For these reasons, I support the sanctions taken by the Administration to correct these violations, and I support H. Res. 780.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 780, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5332) to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiations processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5332

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 “Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Around the world, women remain under-represented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace building efforts.

(2) Despite the historic under-representation of women in conflict resolution processes, women in conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved significant success in—

- (A) moderating violent extremism;
- (B) countering terrorism;
- (C) resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation; and
- (D) stabilizing societies by enhancing the effectiveness of security services, peace-

keeping efforts, institutions, and decision-making processes.

(3) Research shows that—

(A) peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women’s groups play an influential role in the negotiation process;

(B) once reached, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women have participated in the negotiation process; and

(C) when women meaningfully participate, peace negotiations are more likely to address the underlying causes of the conflict, leading to more sustainable outcomes.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes helps to promote more inclusive and democratic societies and is critical to the long-term stability of countries and regions;

(2) the political participation and leadership of women in fragile environments, particularly during democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining lasting democratic institutions; and

(3) the United States should be a global leader in promoting the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced through diplomatic efforts and programs that—

(1) integrate the perspectives and interests of affected women into conflict-prevention activities and strategies;

(2) encourage partner governments to adopt plans to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes and decision-making institutions;

(3) promote the physical safety, economic security, and dignity of women and girls;

(4) support the equal access of women to aid distribution mechanisms and services;

(5) collect and analyze gender data for the purpose of developing and enhancing early warning systems of conflict and violence;

(6) adjust policies and programs to improve outcomes in gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

(7) monitor, analyze, and evaluate the efforts related to each strategy submitted under section 5 and the impact of such efforts.

SEC. 5. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than October 1, 2017, October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2027, the President, in consultation with the heads of the relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make publicly available a single government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed description of how the United States intends to fulfill the policy objectives in section 4. The strategy shall—

(1) support and be aligned with plans developed by other countries to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes, conflict prevention, peace building, transitional processes, and decision-making institutions; and

(2) include specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, performance metrics, time-tables, and monitoring and evaluation plans,

to ensure the accountability and effectiveness of all policies and initiatives carried out under the strategy.

(b) SPECIFIC PLANS FOR AGENCIES.—Each strategy under subsection (a) shall include a specific implementation plan from each of the relevant Federal departments and agencies that describes—

(1) the anticipated contributions of the department or agency, including technical, financial, and in-kind contributions, to implement the strategy; and

(2) the efforts of the department or agency to ensure that the policies and initiatives carried out pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Within each relevant bureau of the Department of State, the Secretary of State shall task the current Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for the implementation of the strategy under subsection (a) and the specific implementation plan for the Department under subsection (b), with respect to the roles and responsibilities of such bureau. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries tasked with such responsibility shall meet, at least twice a year, to review the implementation of the strategy and the plan and to contribute to the report under section 8(b).

(d) COORDINATION.—The President should promote the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, in coordination and consultation with international partners, including multilateral organizations, stakeholders, and other relevant international organizations, particularly in situations in which the direct engagement of the United States is not appropriate or advisable.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President, in implementing each strategy submitted under subsection (a), should—

(1) provide technical assistance, training, and logistical support to female negotiators, mediators, peace builders, and stakeholders;

(2) address security-related barriers to the meaningful participation of women;

(3) increase the participation of women in existing programs funded by the United States Government that provide training to foreign nationals regarding law enforcement, the rule of law, or professional military education;

(4) support appropriate local organizations, especially women’s peace building organizations;

(5) support the training, education, and mobilization of men and boys as partners in support of the meaningful participation of women;

(6) encourage the development of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms that are inclusive of the experiences and perspectives of women and girls;

(7) expand and apply gender analysis to improve program design and targeting; and

(8) conduct assessments that include the perspectives of women before implementing any new initiatives in support of peace negotiations, transitional justice and accountability, efforts to counter violent extremism, or security sector reform.

SEC. 6. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) FOREIGN SERVICE.—The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall ensure that all appropriate personnel (including special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or Foreign Service, and contractors) responsible for or deploying to countries or regions