

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5970, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a cost benefit analysis of the use of Form 10-Q and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION INFORMATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5626) to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5626

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 "Inter-country Adoption Information Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS.

(a) REPORT ELEMENTS.—Section 104(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(9) A list of countries that established or maintained a law or policy that prevented or prohibited adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether such adoptions occurred under the Convention.

"(10) For each country listed under paragraph (9), the date on which the law or policy was initially implemented.

"(11) Information on efforts taken with respect to a country listed under paragraph (9) to encourage the resumption of halted or stalled adoption proceedings involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoptions would have occurred under the Convention.

"(12) Information on any action the Secretary carried out that prevented, prohibited, or halted any adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoptions occurred under the Convention."

(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—Section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall make the information contained in the report required under subsection (a) available to the public on the website of the Department of State."

(c) PRIVACY CONCERNS.—In complying with the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall avoid, to the max-

imum extent practicable, disclosing any personally identifiable information relating to United States citizens or the adoptees of such citizens.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(a) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914(a)) is amended by striking "International Relations" and inserting "Foreign Affairs".

(e) APPLICATION DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to reports required to be submitted under section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914) beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

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 of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any 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 of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this measure. It is the Intercountry Adoption Information Act, H.R. 5626.

Here in Congress, I have been honored, as has my friend here, DOUG COLLINS, the author of this measure, to help bring families together through overseas adoptions.

□ 1645

These children are deeply loved by American parents from all different backgrounds who give them incredible care and give them opportunity. Sadly, international adoptions do not always go as planned.

Over the years, I have met with countless families who were matched with a child, bonded with that child, financially supported that child, only to have their child's adoption stalled or, worse, stopped completely due to policy changes in the child's birth country. Obviously, this is devastating, devastating to the child, devastating to the families involved.

In September of 2013, President Joseph Kabila of Congo suspended exit permits for more than 1,000 children already adopted by international couples, mainly from the United States and France. These adoptions had already been approved by the Congolese courts. The children had been issued passports from their new countries. Parents had come to spend time with those children, but without the exit visas from the Congolese Government, they could not leave. The children could not leave.

Families were forced to spend thousands of dollars, travel across oceans,

and navigate foreign courts to fight to bring those adopted children home. Making matters worse, many children had serious medical issues. Tragically, I have to report to you that 25 died while stuck in this bureaucratic chokehold. They were living in horrid conditions, lacking the most basic care.

Thankfully, through a coordinated push by the previous administration and Congress, hundreds of children in the DRC were freed to come home to the United States. It took multiple trips to get the job done. I personally traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to raise these issues at the highest levels of the Congolese Government. Within 60 days afterward, more than 400 children were released to their adoptive American families.

But still, many children remain at risk worldwide. We do not know exactly how many children are waiting to be united with their families in the U.S. and elsewhere. The Intercountry Adoption Information Act introduced by our colleague from Georgia, DOUG COLLINS, seeks to lessen this problem by enhancing the information available to families who are adopting.

Those families wish to adopt overseas, and they need to know. They need to know the situation. This bill requires the State Department to include in its existing annual report information on countries that have enacted new laws or policies that would impact intercountry adoptions.

This information would have been helpful, for example, when the Congo and Ethiopia imposed sweeping new policies that put a hold on adoptions for American families.

With the passage of this legislation, families could see not only how many children are being adopted by American families from certain countries and how long these adoption proceedings are taking, but if the country has recently changed its laws or if policies have been changed by a head of state that could make adoption more difficult or shut it down completely.

Just as importantly, this legislation would also require that the annual report include what positive steps the U.S. Government is taking to reduce the burdens or barriers on stalled adoptions to unite children with their families.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of the Intercountry Adoption Information Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, let me thank Congressman DOUG COLLINS and Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE for their work in bringing this bill forward.

This bill before us, the Intercountry Adoption Information Act of 2018, will create more transparency in the adoption process.

Mr. Speaker, the adoption process can be long, emotional, and expensive

for Americans who seek to expand their families and give children a forever home. The reason families put themselves through this is because they love these children and want to give them a chance to be part of a loving family. But foreign governments sometimes abruptly change their policies on adoptions, leaving families in the dark as they anxiously wait to be united with their adoptive children. This measure would help make sure adoptive parents get the information they need when this happens.

H.R. 5626 requires the Secretary of State to report whether countries have enacted new laws or policies that would affect intercountry adoptions for American families. This will help create a more transparent adoption process that benefits everyone, the parents and the child as well.

Mr. Speaker, we owe to these families and children to illuminate the dark corners of the adoption process. With 140 million children orphaned worldwide, we need to make it easier for families to come together, regardless of the child's birth country. These children need loving and supportive homes, and this bill gives them a better chance at being adopted into one.

Mr. Speaker, I support this measure strongly, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member so much for their support in this and bringing this forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5626, the Intercountry Adoption Information Act. I introduced this legislation to make it easier for American families to get crucial information as they pursue adoptions from foreign countries.

American families hoping to adopt from a foreign country can face many obstacles on the road to being united with their adoptive children. Too often, these challenges require parents to navigate confusing and complicated foreign adoption policies.

The chairman did a great job explaining why this is opening up, why we are providing transparency, and also providing a great basis for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, many times we come to this floor and we talk about the mechanics of a bill, but I want to talk about what I call the faces behind the bill.

For this, for me, I have watched northeast Georgians from my district, like the Romano family, struggle under shifting adoption policies and changing international standards.

In 2012, Pam and Mark Romano traveled to Russia to adopt a young boy named Bogdon, a decision they reached after much prayer and family discussion. While there, the Romanos discov-

ered that Bogdon had a brother, Yura, although the boys were living separately. The family immediately felt a calling to welcome both boys into their home and began the process of adopting Yura as well.

Sadly, Russia then instituted a ban on adoptions to the United States, halting these adoption proceedings. This left the Romanos devastated. They worked to be reunited with their sons, but they needed concrete information about how to do that and what was happening in Russia, as well as diplomatically.

Since that time, Pam Romano has refused to give up on welcoming their 2 boys into her family. She is fighting to bring her sons home, and the boys' room is furnished and ready for their arrival. Pam and her family have been tireless advocates for not only Bogdon and Yura, but also for families across the country who are facing similar trials.

I hope that this will be a wonderful time to bring this up, in light of the meeting this week with the President and Mr. Putin. To bring this issue up would be a great time to remind that we can work together on some things.

Today, American families like the Romanos still need more accurate, up-to-date information as they labor to bring their adoptive children into loving homes. Changing foreign practices can leave adoptive parents mystified and desperately seeking answers as they pursue intercountry adoptions in different countries.

The Intercountry Adoption Information Act takes steps to shrink this information gap. It ensures families in the intercountry adoption process are equipped with a more thorough outlook on the status of intercountry adoptions in specific countries and on the State Department's actions to resume these adoptions currently stalled.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their support in moving this bill forward, and also my partners in this, Representatives LAWRENCE, FITZPATRICK, LAMBORN, CICILINE, LANGEVIN, WILSON, and YOHO, for being co-sponsors of this bill and to highlight their advocacy on behalf of these loving families and innocent children.

The Romanos brought this to my attention, but it is not left there. I would also like to thank my staff, Erica Barker, who has not let this issue go and has brought it to my attention constantly in moving this bill forward.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working for American families so that we can benefit and see the benefits of our Intercountry Adoption Information Act.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), the co-author of the measure.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Intercountry Adoption Information Act. As co-chair

of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and an original cosponsor with Congressman COLLINS, I am pleased to see the House take up this bill on suspension.

There are an estimated 140 million orphaned children worldwide and many families waiting to provide a permanent, loving home.

However, in recent years, countries have carried out policy changes that have reduced our intercountry adoptions altogether. Many of these changes are suddenly implemented, leading to confusion for families in the middle of the adoption process.

H.R. 5626 adds reporting requirements to the act of 2000 to track foreign countries that have made changes to their adoption policies.

This bill is a simple fix that allows families to access accurate, updated information. It gives clarity to prospective families and the millions of children who are in need of a permanent, loving home.

Again, I want to say thank you to my ranking member and to Representative COLLINS, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

I want to say again that I am pleased to support the Intercountry Adoption Information Act. Let me add that too often we hear these heart-wrenching stories of American families whose adoption processes were halted by a foreign government's change in policy. To make matters worse, these families often have no idea why the process grinds to a halt.

This bill presents a straightforward fix, requiring the State Department to provide information that affects prospective adoptive American families. So I support this bill and agree with what the chairman has said as well and encourage all my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me just thank my colleagues; the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL; as well as Congressman COLLINS, the author of this bill; and two other Members who worked hard on it, Congressman KINZINGER and Congressman SCHNEIDER. They made improvements to the legislation during markup.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support the Intercountry Adoption Information Act. I think it is very important.

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. 5626, 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.

CONDEMNING SLAVE AUCTIONS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN LIBYA

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 644) strongly condemning the slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 644

Whereas Libya has become the primary transit hub for migrants and refugees attempting to reach Southern Europe;

Whereas in December 2016, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that many migrants and refugees in Libya are forced to work without pay as farm laborers, domestic workers, construction workers, and rubbish collectors;

Whereas beginning in 2017, multiple news and international organizations began reporting on the existence of slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya;

Whereas the Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report 2017 for Libya stated that migrants held in detention centers controlled by both Libya's Department to Combat Irregular Migration (DCIM) and non-state armed groups are subject to severe abuse, rampant sexual violence, forced labor, and other human rights abuses;

Whereas on February 12, 2018, the United Nations Secretary-General reported to the United Nations Security Council that the humanitarian situation in Libya had recently deteriorated further, and that "Refugees and migrants continued to be subjected to violence, forced labor, and other grave violations and abuses.";

Whereas the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord affirmed the depravity of slavery and human trafficking and initiated an investigation into such acts within Libya;

Whereas a September 2017, report from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) determined that unaccompanied children who crossed the Mediterranean from Libya suffered enslavement, violence, and sexual abuse at the hands of smugglers and traffickers;

Whereas in November 2017, a joint European Union-African Union-United Nations Task Force was established to protect migrants along migration routes to, from, and in Libya;

Whereas since December 2017, the International Organization for Migration has facilitated the return of more than 15,000 migrants to their homes from Libya through a voluntary humanitarian program, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has evacuated more than 1,300 refugees from Libya as of March 2018;

Whereas the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya in 2011 led to significant political turmoil and insecurity within the country;

Whereas in December 2017, the Libyan Political Agreement was reaffirmed as the internationally-supported framework for creating a unified Libyan government;

Whereas, despite this agreement, the prolonged and continuing absence of a unified Libyan government has resulted in a power vacuum in which human trafficking and smuggling have emerged as a lucrative trade and funds obtained from the transfer, sale, and exploitation of migrants are used to fund armed militias competing for territory, influence, and control of institutions; and

Whereas the United States has repeatedly condemned slavery, involuntary servitude, and other elements of trafficking as a grave violation of human rights and a matter of pressing international concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns slave auctions and the exploitation of migrants and refugees as forced laborers in Libya;

(2) calls upon all parties to the conflict in Libya, including parties to the Libyan Political Agreement, to—

(A) investigate and eradicate slave auctions and forced labor involving migrants and refugees;

(B) hold those identified in the investigation accountable in courts of law;

(C) manage migration flows and migrant detention centers in a humane manner; and

(D) investigate how funds earned through the transfer, sale, and exploitation of migrants are used and the extent to which such profits are fueling and prolonging Libya's civil conflict;

(3) calls upon the United Nations to—

(A) investigate allegations of the slave trade and other forced labor in Libya;

(B) advocate that all parties to the conflict in Libya, including parties to the Libyan Political Agreement, allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to regularly monitor and publicly report on the situation of all refugees and migrants in Libya, including those in detention centers; and

(C) expand sanctions under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2174 (2014) against individuals and entities responsible for slave auctions and forced labor of migrants and refugees in Libya;

(4) calls upon the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to ensure that any strategies, programs, or other efforts to address the political and security situation in Libya appropriately address the vulnerabilities faced by migrants and refugees; and

(5) urges the Secretary of State to ensure that the country narrative for Libya in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report fully and accurately reflects the scope of trafficking in persons in that country, including any complicity by parties to the Libyan Political Agreement or other governmental entities, as required by section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107).

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 of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to

include any 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 of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking Congresswoman BASS, the ranking member of our subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. I thank her for authoring this important resolution, because modern-day slavery continues to devastate the lives of tens of millions of human beings around the world. The perpetrators of these dastardly, disgusting acts prey on the defenseless. They prey on those without power, including preying on young children.

□ 1700

I think many of us have had an opportunity or a responsibility to work with survivors of human trafficking in our districts. I can tell you that one of the things that it taught me was the horror of trafficking lies not in statistics; it lies in stolen lives.

These crimes are common for one reason: they are profitable and people get away with it. The International Labor Organization estimates that there is \$150 billion in illegal profit made from forced labor each year, making human trafficking the third most valuable criminal enterprise on the planet and providing fuel to violent extremist organizations.

Unfortunately, Libya has become a major center of human trafficking. The country continues to be a fractured and failed state. There is no government to control its territory. This vacuum, when combined with Libya's proximity to Europe, has made Libya the primary transit hub for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa attempting to reach Europe.

Various bad actors, including extremist groups, have taken advantage, profiting from the unrest by mercilessly preying on migrants and refugees from some of the poorest and most war-torn countries in the world. News reports tell of people being forced to work without pay; others have shown people being sold at slave auctions in Libya.

The resolution before us today rightfully condemns these dehumanizing acts and calls on all parties in Libya to investigate these crimes and to hold perpetrators accountable. It urges the United Nations to investigate and to impose sanctions against those responsible for these abuses, and it calls for greater access for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to monitor and publicly report on refugees and migrants in Libya.

Finally, the resolution calls on the administration to address these issues in a strategy to tackle Libya's political and security challenges, and to ensure