

# GLOBAL FRAGILITY AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5273) to reduce global fragility and violence by improving the capacity of the United States to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in pilot countries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5273

*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 “Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018”.

## SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to the United Nations, an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world, the highest level ever recorded, are currently forcibly displaced from their homes.

(2) According to the World Bank, violence and violent conflict are now the leading causes of displacement and food insecurity worldwide, driving 80 percent of humanitarian needs, with the same conflicts accounting for the majority of forcibly displaced persons every year since 1991.

(3) According to the World Health Organization, preventable forms of violence kill at least 1.4 million people each year. According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, violence containment costs the global economy \$14.76 trillion a year, or 12.4 percent of the world’s GDP. If violence were to decrease uniformly across the world by just 10 percent, the global economy would gain \$1.48 trillion each year.

(4) Violence and violent conflict underpin many of the United States Government’s key national security challenges. Notably, violent conflicts allow for environments in which terrorist organizations recruit and thrive, while the combination of violence, corruption, poverty, poor governance, and underdevelopment often enables transnational gangs and criminal networks to wreak havoc and commit atrocities worldwide.

(5) According to new research by the University of Maryland and University of Pittsburgh, exposure to violence increases support for violence and violent extremism. Research increasingly finds exposure to violence as a predictor of future participation in violence, including violent extremism.

(6) United States foreign policy and assistance efforts in highly violent and fragile states remain governed by an outdated patchwork of authorities that prioritize responding to immediate needs rather than solving the problems that cause them.

(7) Lessons learned over the past 20 years, documented by the 2013 Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Lessons Learned Study, the 2016 Fragility Study Group report, and the 2018 Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Lessons Learned Study on Stabilization, show that effective, sustained United States efforts to reduce violence and stabilize fragile and violence-affected states require clearly defined goals and strategies, adequate long-term funding, rigorous and iterative conflict analysis, coordination across the United States Government, including strong civil-military coordination, and integration with national and sub-national partners, including local civil society organizations, local justice systems, and local governance structures.

(8) The “Stabilization Assistance Review” released in 2018 by the Departments of State and Defense and the United States Agency for International Development states, “The United States has strong national security and economic interests in reducing levels of violence and promoting stability in areas affected by armed conflict.” The Review further states, “Stabilization is an inherently political endeavor that requires aligning U.S. Government efforts—diplomatic engagement, foreign assistance, and defense—toward supporting locally legitimate authorities and systems to peaceably manage conflict and prevent violence.”

## SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) ensure that all relevant Federal departments and agencies coordinate to achieve coherent, long-term goals for programs designed to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility, including when implementing the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Initiative described in section 5(a);

(2) seek to improve global, regional, and local coordination of relevant international and multilateral development and donor organizations regarding efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility in fragile and violence-affected countries, and, where practicable and appropriate, align such efforts with multilateral goals and indicators;

(3) expand and enhance the effectiveness of United States foreign assistance programs and activities to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility, including programs intended to improve the indicators described in section 5(d)(1);

(4) support the research and development of effective approaches to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility; and

(5) improve the monitoring, evaluation, learning, and adaptation tools and authorities for relevant Federal departments and agencies working to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility.

## SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE GLOBAL FRAGILITY AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE.

It is the sense of Congress that the President, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, should work with Congress to provide sufficient types and levels of funding to—

(1) allow for more adaptive program planning and implementation under the initiative and priority country or regional plans required under section 5, including through exemptions from specific and minimum funding levels when such exemptions would make programs better able to respond to monitoring and evaluation or changed circumstances in relevant countries;

(2) better integrate conflict and violence reduction activities into other program areas where appropriate; and

(3) contribute to the creation of transparent and accountable multilateral funds, initiatives, and strategies to enhance and better coordinate both private and public efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility.

## SEC. 5. GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE FRAGILITY AND VIOLENCE.

(a) INITIATIVE.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish an interagency initiative, to be referred to as the “Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence”, to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an interagency implementation plan for the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence established pursuant to subsection (a) that includes the following:

(1) Descriptions of the overall goals, objectives, criteria, and metrics guiding the implementation, including with respect to prioritizing countries and measuring progress.

(2) A list of the priority countries and regions selected pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

(3) Identification of the roles and responsibilities of each participating Federal department or agency, while ensuring that with respect to activities relating to stabilization—

(A) the Department of State shall be the overall lead for establishing United States foreign policy and advancing diplomatic and political efforts;

(B) USAID shall be the lead implementing agency for development, humanitarian, and related non-security programs;

(C) the Department of Defense shall support the activities of the Department of State and USAID as appropriate, including by providing requisite security and reinforcing civilian efforts, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID; and

(D) other Federal departments and agencies shall support the activities of the Department of State and USAID as appropriate, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID.

(4) Identification of the authorities, staffing, and other resource requirements needed to effectively implement the initiative.

(5) Descriptions of the organizational steps the Department of State, USAID, the Department of Defense, and each other relevant Federal department or agency will take to improve planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, adaptive management, and iterative learning with respect to the programs under such initiative.

(6) Descriptions of the steps each relevant Federal department or agency will take to improve coordination and collaboration under such initiative with international development organizations, international donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.

(7) Descriptions of potential areas of improved public and private sector research and development, including with academic, philanthropic, and civil society organizations, on more effective approaches to preventing violence, stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and addressing the long-term causes of violence and fragility.

(8) Plans for regularly evaluating and updating, on an iterative basis—

(A) the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence;

(B) the interagency implementation plan described in this subsection; and

(C) the priority country and regional plans described in subsection (c).

(c) **PRIORITY COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PLANS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees 10-year plans to align and integrate the diplomatic, development, security, and other relevant activities of the United States Government with the initiative required under subsection (a) for each of the priority countries and regions designated pursuant to subsection (d). Such priority country and regional plans shall include:

(1) Specific interagency plans for coordination and implementation under the country or regional plan.

(2) Descriptions of how and when the relevant goals, objectives, and plans for each priority country or region will be incorporated into relevant United States country plans and strategies, including Department of State Integrated Country Strategies, USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategies, and Department of Defense Campaign Plans, Operational Plans, and Regional Strategies, as well as any equivalent or successor plans or strategies.

(3) Interagency plans to ensure that appropriate local actors, including government and civil society entities and organizations led by women, youth, or under-represented communities, have roles in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and updating relevant aspects of each such country or regional plan.

(4) Clear, transparent, and measurable diplomatic, development, and security benchmarks, timetables, and performance metrics for each such country and region that align with best practices where applicable.

(5) Interagency plans for monitoring and evaluation, adaptive management, and iterative learning that provide for regular and iterative policy and program adaptations based on outcomes, lessons learned, and other evidence gathered from each such country or region and across such countries and regions.

(6) Descriptions of the available policy tools to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility in each such country or region.

(7) Descriptions of the resources and authorities that would be required for each relevant Federal department or agency to best implement each such country or regional plan, as well as evidence-based iterative updates to such plans.

(8) Descriptions of potential areas of improved partnership with respect to such country or region, regarding efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility, between the United States Government and—

(A) international development organizations;

(B) relevant international donors;

(C) multilateral organizations; and

(D) the private sector.

(d) **DESIGNATION OF PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.**—

(1) **IDENTIFICATION OF CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID and the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, shall develop a list of candidate countries and regions to be considered for inclusion under the initiative on the basis of—

(A) clearly defined indicators of high levels of violence and fragility in such country or region, such as—

(i) violence committed by armed groups, gender-based violence, and violence against children and youth;

(ii) prevalence of, and citizen support for, adversarial armed groups;

(iii) internal and external population displacement;

(iv) patterns of human rights violations, including early warning indicators of the commission of genocide or other atrocities;

(v) poor governance, pervasive corruption, and political instability; and

(vi) vulnerability to current or future transnational threats; and

(B) the capacity and opportunity to work across Federal departments and agencies and with local partners and other donors to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility with respect to such country or region, including by measurably—

(i) improving inclusive, transparent, and accountable power structures, including effective, legitimate, and resilient national and sub-national institutions;

(ii) improving effective and respected conflict prevention, mitigation, management, and resolution mechanisms;

(iii) reducing levels of support among the residents of such country or region for violence, violent extremism, and adversarial armed groups;

(iv) ensuring strong foundations for plurality, non-discrimination, human rights, rule of law, and equal access to justice;

(v) addressing political, social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities, grievances, and conflicts;

(vi) ensuring inclusive economic development and enabling business environments; and

(vii) improving resilience to transnational stresses and shocks, including from organized crime, violent extremist organizations, and economic and food markets crises.

(2) **SELECTION OF PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.**—From among the candidate countries and regions identified pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID and the Secretary of Defense, shall select certain countries as “priority countries” and certain regions as “priority regions” in a manner that ensures that—

(A) countries and regions are selected in a sufficient number and of sufficient diversity to provide indicators of the various drivers and early warnings of violence, conflict, and fragility, as well as best practices for United States efforts to prevent violence, stabilize conflict-affected areas, and address the long-term causes of violence and fragility;

(B) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Stabilization Countries” or “Stabilization Regions”, in which the current levels of violence, violent conflict, or fragility are among the highest in the world;

(C) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Prevention Countries” or “Prevention Regions”, in which current levels of violence, violent conflict, or fragility are lower than such levels in Stabilization Countries or Stabilization Regions but warning signs for future violence, conflict, or fragility are significant;

(D) regions, rather than individual countries, are selected where the threat or spillover of violence, conflict, or fragility threatens the stability of multiple countries within a single geographic region; and

(E) the countries and regions selected are in the areas of responsibility of at least three geographic bureaus of the Department of State.

(e) **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.**—The initiative required under subsection (a) shall be

developed in coordination with representatives of local civil society and national and local governance entities, as well as relevant international development organizations, multilateral organizations, donors, and relevant private, academic, and philanthropic entities, as appropriate.

(f) **CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, and the Secretary of Defense shall provide regular briefings on the implementation of this Act to any appropriate congressional committee upon the request of such committee.

(g) **MEASURING VIOLENCE, VIOLENT CONFLICT, AND FRAGILITY.**—For the purposes of implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of the priority country and regional plans required under subsection (c), progress towards preventing violence, stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and addressing the long-term causes of violence and fragility shall be measured by indicators established for each such country by relevant inter-agency country teams for each such country, informed by consultations with the stakeholders specified in subsection (e).

## SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND UPDATES OF PRIORITY COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PLANS.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, and in consultation with the relevant United States Ambassadors, USAID Mission Directors, geographic Combatant Commanders, and other relevant individuals with responsibility over activities in each priority country or region designated pursuant to section 5, shall ensure that—

(1) the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence and the priority country and regional plans required under such section are implemented, updated, and coordinated on a regular and iterative basis;

(2) such initiative and country and regional plans are used to guide United States Government policy at a senior level and incorporated into relevant strategies and plans across the United States Government and in each such country;

(3) resources for all relevant activities and requirements of such initiative and country and regional plans are prioritized, requested, and used consistent with such initiative and country and regional plans; and

(4) the results of program monitoring and evaluation under such initiative and country and regional plans are regularly reviewed and used to determine continuation, modification, or termination of future year programming.

## SEC. 7. BIENNIAL REPORTS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.

(a) **BIENNIAL REPORTS.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act and every two years thereafter until the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made and lessons learned with respect to the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence and each priority country or regional plan required under section 5, including—

(1) descriptions of steps taken to incorporate such initiative and such country or regional plans into relevant strategies and plans that affect such countries or regions;

(2) accountings of all funding received and obligated to implement each such country or regional plan during the past two years, as well as funding requested, planned, and projected for the following two years;

(3) descriptions of progress made towards the goals and objectives established for each such priority country or region, including progress made towards achieving the specific targets, metrics, and indicators described in section 5(b); and

(4) descriptions of updates made during the past two years to the goals, objectives, plans of action, and other elements described in section 5 for each such country or regional plan, as well as any changes made to programs based on the results of monitoring and evaluation.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.—In addition to the reports required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies shall jointly consult with the appropriate congressional committees at least once a year regarding progress made on the initiative and priority country and regional plans required under section 5.

#### SEC. 8. GAO REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act and every two years thereafter until the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall consult with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives regarding opportunities for independent review of the activities under the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence and the priority country and regional plans required by section 5, including—

(1) opportunities to—

(A) assess the extent to which United States Government activities in each priority country designated pursuant to section 5 are being implemented in accordance with the initiative and the relevant country or regional plan required under such section;

(B) assess the processes and procedures for coordinating among and within each relevant Federal department or agency when implementing such initiative and each such country or regional plan;

(C) assess the monitoring and evaluation efforts under such initiative and each such country or regional plan, including assessments of the progress made and lessons learned with respect to each such plan, as well as any changes made to activities based on the results of such monitoring and evaluation; and

(D) recommend changes necessary to better implement United States Government activities in accordance with such initiative and country and regional plans, as well as recommendations for any changes to such initiative or plans; and

(2) such other matters the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—All relevant Federal departments and agencies shall make all relevant data, documents, and other information available to the Comptroller General for purposes of conducting independent reviews pursuant to this section.

#### SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.—The term “relevant Federal de-

partment or agency” means the Department of the Treasury and any other Federal department or agency the President determines is relevant to carry out the purposes 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 to revise and extend their remarks and 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 of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, since the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has committed lives and treasure to help stabilize countries plagued by conflict and insecurity. We undertake these efforts because unchecked instability abroad threatens our economic, humanitarian, and security interests here at home.

Of course, the United States cannot achieve its objectives alone. We need to coordinate with willing and able partners. We need to engage local leaders, empower civil society, and work with the private sector. We need to improve coordination among our own national security agencies to ensure they are working together to advance clearly defined objectives and eliminate duplication and waste. Through this process, they learn and adapt.

Last June, the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense released a security assistance review that set out a framework to improve U.S. security assistance programs, including stabilization. The legislation we are considering today builds on that effort.

This legislation requires the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to develop a comprehensive initiative to address global violence and instability.

Within 6 months, the Secretary of State will submit to Congress an implementation plan that sets out clear goals and objectives, identifies priority countries and regions, defines the roles and responsibilities of each U.S. department and agency, and describes efforts to improve coordination and private sector engagement.

Then, building off that initial survey, the Secretary will submit to Congress a 10-year implementation plan for each identified priority country and region that aligns the diplomatic, develop-

ment, and security activities of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is a timely bill that will help ensure the effective use of U.S. foreign assistance, reduce violence and insecurity abroad, and keep America safe. It enjoys bipartisan support. And it just makes sense.

I would like to thank the sponsors—Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL; the chairman of the Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade Subcommittee, TED POE; the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, MIKE MCCAUL; BILL KEATING of Massachusetts—and their bipartisan cosponsors for their work on this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure. I am proud to have authored this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership in bringing it to the floor. I also want to thank Congressmen POE, MCCAUL, KEATING, and ADAM SMITH for joining me as original cosponsors.

Around the world, levels of violence are at a 25-year high, driving massive instability. This is a global security threat, as fragile, unstable states are breeding grounds for criminals and terrorists.

There is a significant economic toll as well. Violence and instability undercut American investment and development efforts, and cost the global economy nearly \$15 trillion a year.

But probably worst of all, this violence and instability has created a humanitarian catastrophe. The world now faces an unprecedented refugee crisis: 68.5 million people have left their homes. This is the highest level ever recorded.

Naturally, we need to do more to end this violence and instability, and prevent it from happening in the first place. Over the years, we have learned a lot about what works to stabilize conflicts and prevent violence from breaking out. We need to update our government policies to implement those lessons.

This bill does just that by establishing an initiative to reduce fragility and violence, and to align American policy and programs with best practices. It will require the State Department, USAID, and the Department of Defense to coordinate their diplomatic, development, and security activities, with a focus on at least six priority countries or regions. It also requires innovative approaches to coordinate our work with partners, measure results, and adapt to changing conditions. Finally, it mandates robust oversight to ensure our efforts are implemented effectively.

□ 1645

The Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act is an important step in thwarting many of the most devastating crises facing the world right

now and preventing new ones from emerging in the future. I am very happy to have authored this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in passing it today.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Judge TED POE, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for this legislation of which I am an original cosponsor. I was proud to work alongside Ranking Member ENGEL, Mr. ADAM SMITH, Mr. MCCAUL, and Representative KEATING on this legislation.

Around the globe today, Mr. Speaker, fractured nations are struggling with conflict, violence, and a range of other challenges that degrade security and prevent their internal development.

Weak states and ungoverned places anywhere in the world provide opportunities for terrorism and instability to flourish. As a result, these fragile states become national security concerns for our country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to solve problems in a smarter way so we don't have to constantly deploy America's sons and daughters into harm's way to fight more foreign wars. The United States has been at war consistently for over 17 straight years. Maybe it is time we rethink our philosophy of constant military involvement throughout the globe as a first response to turmoil and unrest.

We need to address the underlying root causes of instability: treat the disease, not just the symptoms. That is what this bill will do. It will require the development of a whole-of-government approach to targeting root causes of instability and conflict in the world's most fragile regions before they require military interventions by the United States.

Instead of parallel efforts that often respond to conflict with short-term solutions, this bill will require long-term, coordinated strategies that make our foreign assistance dollars more effective. It will allow Congress to have more oversight of those foreign aid dollars. The money we spend abroad must be designed to solve problems, not endlessly consume resources by military conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member ENGEL for his leadership on this critical issue. I do urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I also want to take a moment to thank Ranking Member ENGEL for his friendship and support and his work on the Foreign Affairs Committee since I have been on the committee. I also want to thank Chairman ROYCE, who will also be leaving Congress at the end of this session, for his work.

As we have said numerous times, if more committees would work in a bi-

partisan way to solve a specific goal—the long-term interests of the United States being that goal—I think things would be better here in the House. But I want to thank both of these Members for their relationship with me and for working so hard to help America solve these international problems in a bipartisan way.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) who just spoke, I think it is very appropriate now, as the Congress is moving to an end, to thank him for his hard work and for his good friendship. He really is a Member's Member and is really indicative of the bipartisan showing that we had for many, many years on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

We are going to miss the gentleman on the committee, and we hope he will continue to watch us and call us and keep in touch with us because he truly is a fine Member and someone whom I am really proud to call my friend. And if I may so say, and that is just the way it is.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill I wrote with Mr. ENGEL, my good friend, the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, one of our greatest national security challenges is preventing violent conflict around the world. Violent conflict creates hostile environments and displaces and deprives citizens. It costs the global economy over \$14 trillion annually.

They also provide fertile recruiting grounds for terrorist groups and transnational criminal organizations, which I have tracked in my role as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Often, these environments thrive in states that are fragile, where the government loses legitimacy in the eyes of its own people and, ultimately, its ability to govern.

When ignored, these breakdowns in a government ultimately can lead to lengthy and costly involvement by the United States. That is why, today, Congressman ENGEL and I are proposing an innovative, new way of thinking about these challenges.

The Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act requires the administration to launch an initiative to reduce this fragility and violence. This will guide our efforts to reduce violent conflict and help fragile states down a path towards stability.

This bill also requires the Department of State, in coordination with USAID and the Department of Defense, to identify 10 countries or regions as a pilot program to start this new initiative. This initiative ensures local partnerships are at the core of any solution

in order to deliver better long-term results.

Since each fragile state is different, this initiative is flexible to address the causes of fragility. What may work to solve the economic and migration issues of Venezuela are likely to be different than the solutions needed to help curb terrorist groups in west Africa.

By integrating the Department of State, USAID, and DOD together and prioritizing, we are reshaping how we think about how we deliver aid and development resources, preventing them from spiraling into chaos.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank, again, the ranking member; I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE for his friendship, as well as Mr. POE and Mr. SMITH; and I hope everybody will attend the chairman's portrait unveiling at the National Archives this evening.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank the bipartisan group of lawmakers who worked with me on this bill—Mr. POE, Mr. MCCAUL—and I thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership, as always.

After 17 years of war with no end in sight, we should all be able to understand the value of preventing conflicts before they start. We have learned a lot about what works and what doesn't when it comes to stabilizing conflicts and preventing violence from breaking out. This bill applies those lessons to American policy. By addressing the root causes of violence, we get closer to a safer and more stable, prosperous world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this measure. I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Mr. ENGEL, the author of this measure, and I express my deep appreciation for his help in all that we have undertaken with our committee.

There are, as ELIOT knows, 70 million men, women, and children who have been displaced by conflict around this globe. While the United States is the most generous provider of humanitarian assistance, it is really true that no amount of tents and sheeting will stop the suffering and the misery that these people feel.

We need solutions to get at the roots of these problems, and the legislation we are considering today helps us down the right path to do that. While it does not obligate the United States to take on stabilization efforts, it does provide the framework for improved coordination so that we can be more strategic, more efficient, and more effective with our diplomatic development and security assistance.

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. 5273, 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 of California. 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.

## UNITED STATES-MEXICO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1567) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1567

*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 “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act”.

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States and Mexico have benefited from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

(2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy reforms that opened its energy sector to private investment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico and the United States and opening new opportunities for United States energy engagement.

(3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State stated, “Our exchange programs build enduring relationships and networks to advance U.S. national interests and foreign policy goals. . . . The role of our exchanges. . . in advancing U.S. national security and economic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong return on investment.”.

(4) According to the Institute of International Education, in the 2015-2016 academic year, more than 56,000 United States students studied in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region while more than 84,000 non-United States students from the region studied in the United States, but only 5,000 of those United States students studied in Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States students were from Mexico.

(5) In March 2011, the United States launched the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which seeks to increase educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.

(6) In January 2014, the United States established the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facilitating a public-private partnership between the Department of State and nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and universities in the United States and other countries of the Western Hemisphere region.

(7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100 grants to more than 250 higher education institutions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments, 75 percent of which was from corporations, foundations, and regional governments.

### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue deepening economic cooperation between the United States and Mexico; and

(2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

### SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) encourage more academic exchanges between the United States and Mexico at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, especially with communities and through academic institutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(3) promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the region in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in proximity to such region; and

(4) assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships between universities in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as medical school and nursing programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education, in addition to the Accreditation Commission For Education in Nursing, so that medical students can pass medical licensing board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing licensing exams, in the United States.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on the strategy required under subsection (a).

### SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative” means the initiative established in March 2011 by the United States Government to increase educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

(2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico border region” means those portions of the United States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between those countries.

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 want to thank Representative CUELLAR and Representative CASTRO as well as the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ENGEL, and the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, MIKE MCCAUL, for their work on the legislation that we are considering here today.

The United States and Mexico share strong economic and cultural ties. As our neighbor to the south, a strong, stable Mexico benefits the United States. Realizing this, we already have many professional and educational exchanges between our two countries to help see that young people in Mexico graduate from school and enter the workforce with the skills, the credentials, and the experience that they need in the 21st century.

In the 2015-2016 school year, 5,000 U.S. students studied abroad in Mexico while 16,000 Mexican students studied in the U.S. They did this through various exchange programs.

These are good numbers, true, but more can be done to ensure that our young people are taking advantage of existing opportunities to study in both countries, and this bill builds on existing programs to expand and strengthen these exchanges.

In particular, the bill focuses on exchanges in four important areas, and these are higher education, medical school, entrepreneurship, and the energy sector. These are all areas from which the U.S. and Mexico stand to mutually benefit from greater cooperation.

There are, of course, areas in which the U.S.-Mexico relationship can improve. For example, Mexico needs to do more to combat the rampant corruption that has taken its toll on its citizens' trust.

But this does not mean that our two countries cannot work together to ensure a brighter, more successful future for young people in both of our countries. Educational and professional exchanges are key to that goal, so I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure. This is a good bill. I