

(1) identify suspected perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide;

(2) collect, document, and protect evidence of crimes and preserve the chain of custody for such evidence;

(3) conduct criminal investigations;

(4) build Syria's investigative and judicial capacities and support prosecutions in the domestic courts of Syria, provided that President Bashar al-Assad is no longer in power;

(5) support investigations by third-party states, as appropriate; or

(6) protect witnesses that may be helpful to prosecutions or other transitional justice mechanisms.

(b) **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of State, after consultation with appropriate Federal agencies and the appropriate congressional committees, and taking into account the findings of the transitional justice study required under section 7(d), is authorized to provide assistance to support the creation and operation of transitional justice mechanisms, including a potential hybrid tribunal, to prosecute individuals suspected of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide in Syria beginning in March 2011.

(c) **BRIEFING.**—The Secretary of State shall provide detailed, biannual briefings to the appropriate congressional committees describing the assistance provided to entities described in subsection (a).

#### **SEC. 10. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS FOR JUSTICE PROGRAM.**

Section 36(b)(10) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708 (b)(10)) is amended by inserting “(including war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed in Syria beginning in March 2011)” after “genocide”.

#### **SEC. 11. SYRIA STUDY GROUP.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established a working group to be known as the “Syria Study Group” (in this section referred to as the “Group”).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Group is to examine and make recommendations with respect to the military and diplomatic strategy of the United States with respect to the conflict in Syria.

(c) **COMPOSITION.**—

(1) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Group shall be composed of 8 members, who shall be appointed as follows:

(A) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(B) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(C) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(D) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(E) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(F) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(G) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(H) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CO-CHAIRS.**—

(A) The chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall jointly designate 1 member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(B) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the

ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall jointly designate 1 member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(3) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Group. Any vacancy in the Group shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—The Group shall review the current situation with respect to the United States military and diplomatic strategy in Syria, including a review of current United States objectives in Syria and the desired end state in Syria.

(2) **ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Group shall—

(A) conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current situation in Syria, its impact on neighboring countries, resulting regional and geopolitical threats to the United States, and current military, diplomatic, and political efforts to achieve a stable Syria; and

(B) develop recommendations on a military and diplomatic strategy for the United States with respect to the conflict in Syria.

(e) **COOPERATION FROM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Group shall receive the full and timely cooperation of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence in providing the Group with analyses, briefings, and other information necessary for the discharge of the duties of the Group.

(2) **LIAISON.**—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence shall each designate at least 1 officer or employee of their respective organizations to serve as a liaison officer to the Group.

(f) **REPORT.**—

(1) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than November 30, 2018, the Group shall submit a report to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Group under this section, including—

(A) an assessment of the current security, political, humanitarian, and economic situation in Syria;

(B) an assessment of the current participation and objectives of various external actors in Syria;

(C) an assessment of the consequences of continued conflict in Syria;

(D) recommendations for a resolution of the conflict in Syria, including options for a gradual political transition to a post-Assad Syria and actions necessary for reconciliation;

(E) a roadmap for a United States and coalition strategy to reestablish security and governance in Syria, including recommendations for the synchronization of stabilization, development, counterterrorism, and reconstruction efforts; and

(F) any other matters with respect to the conflict in Syria that the Group considers appropriate.

(2) **INTERIM BRIEFING.**—Not later than June 30, 2018, the Group shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on the status of its review and assessment under subsection (d) and a discussion of any interim recommendations developed by the Group as of the date of the briefing.

(3) **FORM OF REPORT.**—The report submitted to Congress under paragraph (1) shall be submitted

in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(g) **FACILITATION.**—The United States Institute of Peace shall take appropriate actions to facilitate the Group in the discharge of its duties under this section.

(h) **TERMINATION.**—The Group shall terminate on the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Group submits the report required under subsection (f)(1).

#### **SEC. 12. INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.**

The Secretary of State, acting through the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, should use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to advocate that the United Nations Human Rights Council, while the United States remains a member, annually extend the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry in the Syrian Arab Republic until the Commission has completed its investigation of all alleged violations of international human rights laws beginning in March 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic.

#### **SEC. 13. PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING.**

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized and appropriated.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Corker amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the title amendment at the desk be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4055) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 390), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 4056) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to provide relief for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes who are members of religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, for accountability for perpetrators of these crimes, and for other purposes.”.

#### **RENAMING THE STOP TRADING ON CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE ACT OF 2012 IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6870 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6870) to rename the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 in honor of Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6870) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SICKLE CELL DISEASE RESEARCH, SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 553, S. 2465.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2465) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program and to provide for sickle cell disease research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Without objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2018".

#### SEC. 2. DATA COLLECTION ON CERTAIN BLOOD DISORDERS.

Part A of title XI of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 1105 (42 U.S.C. 300b-4) the following:

#### "SEC. 1106. SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND OTHER HERITABLE BLOOD DISORDERS RESEARCH, SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT.

"(a) GRANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants related to heritable blood disorders, including sickle cell disease, for one or more of the following purposes:

"(A) To collect and maintain data on such diseases and conditions, including subtypes as applicable, and their associated health outcomes and complications, including for the purpose of—

"(i) improving national incidence and prevalence data;

"(ii) identifying health disparities, including the geographic distribution, related to such diseases and conditions;

"(iii) assessing the utilization of therapies and strategies to prevent complications; and

"(iv) evaluating the effects of genetic, environmental, behavioral, and other risk factors that may affect such individuals.

"(B) To conduct public health activities with respect to such conditions, which may include—

"(i) developing strategies to improve health outcomes and access to quality health care for the screening for, and treatment and management of, such diseases and conditions, including through public-private partnerships;

"(ii) providing support to community-based organizations and State and local health departments in conducting education and training activities for patients, communities, and health care providers concerning such diseases and conditions;

"(iii) supporting State health departments and regional laboratories, including through training, in testing to identify such diseases and conditions, including specific forms of sickle cell disease, in individuals of all ages; and

"(iv) the identification and evaluation of best practices for treatment of such diseases and conditions, and prevention and management of their related complications.

"(2) POPULATION INCLUDED.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, award grants under this subsection to eligible entities across the United States to improve data on the incidence and prevalence of heritable blood disorders, including sickle cell disease, and the geographic distribution of such diseases and conditions.

"(3) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary may give priority, as appropriate, to eligible entities that have a relationship with a community-based organization that has experience in, or is capable of, providing services to individuals with heritable blood disorders, including sickle cell disease.

"(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible entity' includes the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Indian tribes, a State or local health department, an institution of higher education, or a nonprofit entity with appropriate experience to conduct the activities under this subsection."

#### SEC. 3. SICKLE CELL DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 712(c) of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-357; 42 U.S.C. 300b-1 note) is amended—

(1) by striking "Sickle Cell Disease" each place it appears and inserting "sickle cell disease";

(2) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "shall conduct a demonstration program by making grants to up to 40 eligible entities for each fiscal year in which the program is conducted under this section for the purpose of developing and establishing systemic mechanisms to improve the prevention and treatment of Sickle Cell Disease" and inserting "shall continue efforts, including by awarding grants, to develop or establish mechanisms to improve the treatment of sickle cell disease, and to improve the prevention and treatment of complications of sickle cell disease, in populations with a high proportion of individuals with sickle cell disease";

(3) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) by striking clause (ii) (relating to priority); and

(B) by striking "GRANT AWARD REQUIREMENTS" and all that follows through "The Administrator shall" and inserting "GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Administrator shall";

(4) in paragraph (2), by adding the following new subparagraph at the end:

"(E) To provide or coordinate services for adolescents with sickle cell disease making the transition to adult health care."; and

(5) in paragraph (6), by striking "\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009" and

inserting "\$4,455,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023".

(b) TECHNICAL CHANGES.—Subsection (c) of section 712 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-357; 42 U.S.C. 300b-1 note), as amended by subsection (a), is—

(1) transferred to the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.);

(2) redesignated as subsection (b); and

(3) inserted at the end of section 1106 of such Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

#### SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the Sense of the Senate that further research should be undertaken to expand the understanding of the causes of, and to find cures for, heritable blood disorders, including sickle cell disease.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2465), as amended, was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HIZBALLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the House amendment to accompany S. 1595.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the following message from the House.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, that the bill from the Senate (S. 1595) entitled "An Act to amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes", do pass with an amendment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the