

That the Senate passed S. 744.
 That the Senate passed S. 820.
 That the Senate passed S. 998.
 That the Senate passed S. 1379.
 With best wishes, I am,
 Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1602

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

GLOBAL FRAGILITY ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2116) to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2116

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 Act".

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 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.

(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 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, attention to the problem of corruption, and integration with and leadership from national and sub-national partners, including local civil society organizations, traditional 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 peacefully 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 stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, including when implementing the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6;

(2) seek to improve global, regional, and local coordination of relevant international and multilateral development and donor organizations regarding efforts to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, 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 stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally;

(4) support the research and development of effective approaches to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and data collection efforts relevant to such approaches; and

(5) improve the tools and authorities for assessment, monitoring, and evaluation needed to enable learning and adaptation by such relevant Federal departments and agencies working to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) STABILIZATION AND PREVENTION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "Stabilization and Prevention Fund" (in this subsection referred to as the "Fund"), to be administered by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and consisting of amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$200,000,000 for each of the five fiscal years beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this paragraph are authorized to remain available until expended.

(3) PURPOSES OF THE FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Fund shall be used for economic and development assistance for any of the following:

(i) To support stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, including through the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6.

(ii) To provide assistance to areas liberated or at risk from, or under the control of, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, other terrorist organizations, or violent extremist organizations, including for stabilization assistance for vulnerable ethnic and religious minority communities affected by conflict.

(B) ADDITION.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Fund are in addition to any amounts otherwise made available for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

(4) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before amounts from the Fund are obligated, the Secretary of State or Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit notification of such obligation to—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) COMPLEX CRISES FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "Complex Crises Fund" (in this subsection referred to as the "Fund"), to be administered by USAID.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$30,000,000 for each of the five fiscal years beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this paragraph are authorized to remain available until expended.

(3) PURPOSES OF THE FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d), amounts in the Fund may be used to carry out the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) to support programs and activities to prevent or respond to emerging or unforeseen foreign challenges and complex crises overseas, including through the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6.

(B) ADDITION.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Fund are in addition to any amounts otherwise made available for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

(4) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund may not be expended for lethal assistance or to respond to natural disasters.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than five percent of amounts in the Fund may be used for administrative expenses.

(5) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than five days before amounts from the Fund are obligated, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit notification of such obligation to—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(6) WAIVER.—Notification in accordance with paragraph (5) may be waived if—

(A) notification by the deadline specified in such paragraph would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare; and

(B) the congressional committees specified in such paragraph—

(i) are notified not later than three days after an obligation of amounts from the Fund; and

(ii) are provided with an explanation of the emergency circumstances that necessitated such waiver.

(c) OTHER FUNDING AND COST MATCHING.—The Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6—

(1) may be supported by funds other than funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this section; and

(2) shall seek to leverage funds from sources other than the United States Government in order to promote coordination and cost-matching to the maximum extent practicable.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE GLOBAL FRAGILITY 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 the appropriate congressional committees to provide sufficient types and levels of funding to—

(1) allow for more adaptive and responsive policy and program planning, implementation, and scaling under the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6, including through more flexible funding mechanisms and exemptions from specific and minimum funding levels when such exemptions would make such programs better able to respond to local needs, the results of monitoring and evaluation, or changed circumstances in relevant countries;

(2) better integrate the initiative and other conflict and violence reduction objectives and activities into other policy and program areas, where appropriate; and

(3) support transparent and accountable multilateral funds, initiatives, and strategies to enhance and better coordinate both private and public efforts to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

SEC. 6. GLOBAL FRAGILITY INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Secretary of Defense, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall, in accordance with subsection (b), establish an interagency initia-

tive, to be referred to as the “Global Fragility Initiative”, to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

(2) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—The Global Fragility Initiative required under this subsection shall be developed in consultation with representatives of local civil society and national and local governance entities, as well as relevant international development organizations with experience implementing programs in fragile and violence-affected communities, multilateral organizations and donors, and relevant private, academic, and philanthropic entities, as appropriate.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT 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, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an interagency plan regarding the establishment of the Global Fragility Initiative pursuant to subsection (a) that includes the following:

(1) Identification of the roles and responsibilities of each participating Federal department or agency, while ensuring that—

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

(B) USAID is the lead implementing agency for development, humanitarian, and related non-security program policy;

(C) where appropriate, the Department of Defense may support the activities of the Department of State and USAID by providing requisite security and support to civilian efforts with the joint-formulation, coordination, and concurrence of the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID; and

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

(2) Identification of which officials of the Department of State, USAID, and the Department of Defense, with a rank not lower than Assistant Secretary or Assistant Administrator, as the case may be, will be responsible for overseeing and leading the initiative.

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

(4) Descriptions of the organizational steps the Secretary of State, the Administrator, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of each other relevant Federal department or agency will take to improve planning, coordination, implementation, assessment, monitoring, evaluation, adaptive management, and iterative learning with respect to the programs carried out under the initiative.

(5) Descriptions of the steps the Secretary of State, the Administrator, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of each other relevant Federal department or agency will take to ensure appropriate host-country ownership and to improve coordination and collaboration under the initiative with international development organizations, international donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.

(6) Descriptions of potential areas of improved public and private sector research and development, including with academic, philanthropic, and civil society organizations, on data collection efforts and more effective approaches to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

(7) Descriptions of the processes for regularly evaluating and updating the initiative on an iterative basis, including regarding priority country and regional plans described in subsection (d).

(8) A list of priority countries and regions selected pursuant to subsection (c), including descriptions of the rationale for such selections.

(c) SELECTION OF PRIORITY 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 select certain countries as “priority countries” and certain regions as “priority regions” for the Global Fragility Initiative—

(1) on the basis of—

(A) clearly defined indicators of the levels of violence or fragility in such country or region, such as the country or region’s—

(i) ranking on recognized global fragility lists, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development States of Fragility report, the Fund for Peace Fragile States Index, the World Bank Harmonized List of Fragile Situations, the Institute for Economics and Peace Global Peace Index, and Holocaust Museum Early Warning Project Risk Assessment;

(ii) ranking on select United States Government conflict and atrocity early warning watch lists; and

(iii) levels of violence, such as violence committed by armed groups, violent extremist organizations, gender-based violence, and violence against children and youth; and

(B) an assessment of—

(i) the capacity and commitment of national and sub-national government entities and civil society partners in such country or region to work with Federal departments and agencies on the initiative, including by demonstrating the willingness and making demonstrable efforts to improve governance, enhance rule of law, and protect human rights; and

(ii) the likelihood that selection as a priority country or priority region would allow the initiative to measurably stabilize conflict-affected areas or prevent violence and fragility in such country or region; and

(2) in a manner that ensures that—

(A) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Stabilization Countries” or “Stabilization Regions”, as the case may be, in which current levels of violence are among the highest in the world;

(B) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Prevention Countries” or “Prevention Regions”, as the case may be, in which current levels of violence are lower than such levels in Stabilization Countries or Stabilization Regions but risk factors for violence or fragility are significant;

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

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

(d) COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PLANS.—Not later than one 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, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees ten-year plans to align and integrate under the Global Fragility Initiative required under subsection (a) all relevant diplomatic,

development, security assistance and cooperation, and other relevant activities of the United States Government with respect to each of the countries and regions selected pursuant to subsection (c). Each such country and regional plan shall include the following:

(1) Specific multi-year interagency plans for coordination and implementation under each such plan.

(2) An up-to-date baseline analysis for each such country or region, including an analysis of political dynamics, impacts of violence, and conditions that contribute to violence and fragility.

(3) Prioritized descriptions of the goals and objectives for stabilizing conflict-affected areas and preventing violence and fragility in each such country or region.

(4) Descriptions of how and when the relevant goals, objectives, plans, and benchmarks for each such 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.

(5) 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 an appropriate ownership stake in developing, implementing, assessing, monitoring, evaluating, and updating relevant activities under each such plan.

(6) Interagency plans to integrate existing and planned security assistance and cooperation programs in each such country or region with the initiative and to maximize positive outcomes and mitigate risks associated with such programs, including risks related to corruption, governance, and human rights.

(7) Assessment, monitoring, and evaluation frameworks for diplomatic, development, and security activities, which shall be informed by consultations with the stakeholders specified in subsection (a)(2), with clear, date-certain metrics for each such country or region, as well as interagency plans for using such frameworks to adapt such activities on a regular and iterative basis.

(8) Descriptions of available policy tools and how such tools will be used to stabilize conflict-affected areas or prevent violence and fragility in each such country or region.

(9) A description of how planning and implementation for each such country or region will be coordinated to ensure such planning and implementation are conducted in partnership between the United States Government and—

- (A) governments of such countries;
- (B) international development organizations;
- (C) relevant international donors;
- (D) multilateral organizations; and
- (E) the private sector.

(10) A regional component outlining plans to address relevant transnational issues in cases in which an individual country is selected and such country is affected by or at risk of regional fragility or violence.

(11) A component outlining plans to address national-level factors at the individual country level in cases in which a region is selected and such region is affected by or at risk of fragility or violence as a result of such national-level factors.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—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 Atrocities Prevention Board (or any

successor entity), relevant United States ambassadors, USAID mission directors, geographic combatant commanders, and other relevant individuals with responsibility over activities in each priority country or region selected pursuant to subsection (c), shall ensure that—

(1) the Global Fragility Initiative required under subsection (a), including each of the country and regional plans under subsection (d), is implemented, updated, and coordinated on a regular and iterative basis; and

(2) such initiative is used to guide United States Government policy at a senior level and incorporated into relevant strategies and plans across the United States Government such that the activities of all Federal departments and agencies are consistent with such initiative.

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 ten years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an unclassified report, which may include a classified annex, on progress made and lessons learned with respect to the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6, including each country and regional plan required as part of such initiative, including the following:

(1) Descriptions of steps taken to incorporate the initiative and such country and regional plans into relevant strategies and plans that affect such countries and regions.

(2) Accountings of all funding received and obligated to implement each such country and regional plan during the previous 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 country and region, including progress made towards achieving specific targets, metrics, and indicators.

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

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

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 ten years after such date of enactment, the Comptroller General of the United States shall consult with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding opportunities for independent review of the activities under the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6, including opportunities to—

(1) assess the extent to which United States Government activities in each country and region selected as part of the initiative are being implemented in accordance with the initiative and the relevant country or regional plan under the initiative;

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

(3) assess the monitoring and evaluation efforts under the initiative and each such country and 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;

(4) recommend changes necessary to better implement United States Government activities in accordance with the initiative, as well as recommendations for any changes to the initiative; and

(5) assess such other matters as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The heads of all relevant Federal departments and agencies shall ensure that all relevant data, documents, and other information is made available to the Comptroller General of the United States 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 department 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 New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCUAU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2116.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, on the Foreign Affairs Committee, we focus a great deal on the importance of diplomacy and development as pillars of American foreign policy. The reason why we to do this is simple: diplomacy and development advance our interests and values in a way that saves lives, that prevents war, that stops crises before they start, and helps stabilize countries where conflicts have occurred.

These efforts strengthen old friendships and build new bridges of understanding with people and cultures and governments throughout the world.

We will always need a strong military, but sending our servicemembers

into harm's way should, likewise, always be a measure of last resort. So, on our committee, we look for ways to make our diplomacy and development more effective. We try to give our diplomats and development experts the tools and resources they need to carry out their critical work.

Today, the House is taking up six bills aimed at doing just that. The first is a bill of mine that I am glad is moving forward.

Let me thank our ranking member, my friend, Mr. McCaul of Texas, for joining as a cosponsor. This legislation gets at the heart of what we want to see from our diplomatic and development efforts around the world: helping places already torn apart by violence to recover and preventing the start of violence in other places where factors are ripe for its outbreak.

Over the past two decades, we have learned a great deal about what drives violence and instability in what are called fragile states. We know that it takes clearly defined goals and strategies. We know that it takes strong, sustained investment over the long term. We know that it takes serious research and analysis. And we know that it takes agencies across government working together toward the same goals.

This bill takes all that knowledge and establishes an overarching policy framework for the United States Government. It will help ensure that our government is working in lockstep to prevent violence and extremism and that we are working closely with civil society groups to assess internal and external drivers of instability, to implement these initiatives on the ground, and to constantly monitor and evaluate the work.

This bill takes into account the fact that no two countries are alike. Some will be willing partners in this work; others will require more rigorous engagement to get them on board. For this reason, the bill requires the selection of priority countries and regions based on a number of indicators, such as the challenges at hand and the commitments of respective governments.

The bill also establishes and authorizes the Stabilization and Prevention Fund and authorizes the Complex Crises Fund for the next 5 years, important steps in making sure this initiative has the resources needed for success.

This bill will make a real difference in the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people and communities, and it will do so in a way that serves U.S. interests.

The United States must get ahead of the extremist threat if we want to ensure our own security. This bill helps us to do just that. I ask for the support of all Members to pass this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Global Fragility Act. I want to thank my good friend, Chairman ENGEL, for introducing this bill. I am proud to be the lead Republican on this vital bipartisan legislation.

Violent conflict costs the global economy more than \$14 trillion every year, killing tens of thousands of people and displacing millions from their homes. In the past, the United States has been investing billions of dollars to stabilize fragile states and conflict areas, often with little to show for it.

We are successful militarily. For example, we have destroyed the so-called caliphate in Iraq and Syria. But as former Secretary of Defense James Mattis once said: "The more that we put into the State Department's diplomacy, hopefully, the less we have to put into a military budget as we deal with the outcome. . . ."

Simply put, we need to be more effective in helping to prevent conflicts before they erupt. That is what this bill is designed to do.

Weak governance, corruption, and extreme poverty fuel instability. Jihadi groups prey on these conditions and plague key parts of the world with their violence and oppression. Fragile states provide fertile recruiting ground for these terrorists and, also, transnational criminal organizations.

Sadly, we are seeing jihadists expand in the Sahel region of Africa. Violent attacks linked to terror groups have doubled every year since 2016.

When I was in Africa last month, I heard tragic stories of this growing threat. I am glad that we are taking action here today to help bring stability to this vital region by passing the Global Fragility Act.

Our bill requires the administration to launch a new initiative to coordinate our assistance in fragile states. This will ensure that the United States takes a whole-of-government approach to preventing violent conflict rather than individual agencies funding piecemeal, uncoordinated activities.

The bill requires the State Department to coordinate with USAID, the Department of Defense, and other agencies in standing up a pilot program in a select number of countries. It also ensures consistent future funding in order to take a long-term approach to our programs and objectives in those key selected locations.

Madam Speaker, we must get this right. We are seeing unprecedented levels of instability, displacement, and humanitarian needs around the world in Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, the Sahel, South Sudan, and elsewhere. Preventing conflict and violence can save the U.S. taxpayer dollars and make our country and the rest of the world safer.

I want to recognize the development community and NGOs, like the ONE Campaign, for the important work that they have done on this critical humanitarian and national security issue. They have been extremely supportive of this bill, and I look forward to working with them to get to final passage.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that we have done a lot of good things in terms of defending this Nation. As chairman of Homeland Security, I think that we stopped probably 95 percent of the threats that we saw coming at us.

We have done very good offensively in our military, defeating and destroying extremist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS in Iraq and Syria and the collapse of the caliphate. But, Madam Speaker, I think where we have been probably not as good and where we need to do better is in prevention and getting at the root causes of the problems.

Getting to the root cause of the problems, particularly in Africa, is extremely important, as the military tells us the Sahel will be the next caliphate.

We have to pass this bill because it gets to the root cause. It is the prevention piece that the State Department, USAID, and the Department of Defense will work together to stop and prevent extremism at its core roots, and I believe it will make the world a safer place long term.

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

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

Madam Speaker, the United States works to prevent and stop violence when we help to build stronger, more secure communities around the world; when we try to make the most vulnerable regions more stable and prosperous, we are improving the lives of large numbers of people. We are also advancing our own interests by eliminating the root causes that allow extremism to fester and drive threats to our own security.

That is the aim of my bill. That is the aim of this bill we are considering today. It is a smart approach to a serious foreign policy challenge.

The House passed it in the last Congress. I hope the other body will take it up soon so we can get it to the President's desk.

Madam Speaker, I again thank the ranking member, Mr. McCaul.

Policies like this should always be bipartisan. As I always stress, as does Mr. McCaul, we try to work in a bipartisan way on the House Foreign Affairs Committee because, after all, the work we are doing is work for all Americans. It helps all Americans. It helps our great Nation.

So I again want to thank the ranking member, Mr. McCaul. I ask all Members to support this effort, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2116.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

REFUGEE SANITATION FACILITY
SAFETY ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 615) to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 615

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 “Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. SECURE ACCESS TO SANITATION FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Section 501 of the Foreign Relations Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 2601 note) is amended in subsection (a)—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (10);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (11) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) the provision of safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women and girls, and vulnerable populations.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 615, the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act 2019.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to thank Ms. MENG and Mr. ZELDIN for authoring this important bipartisan measure.

We are facing a devastating refugee crisis around the world right now. Over 25 million people are currently refugees having fled from violence, conflict, and crisis. Many of these people are now living in refugee camps.

And let me be clear, we need a foreign policy that addresses the root causes of this crisis.

So I am pleased we just considered my Global Fragility bill, which works to prevent the kind of conflict and instability that leads to these refugee crises.

The United States also needs to open its doors to more of these families who have fled violence in search of a better life. America should be leading the world to help in relocating these displaced people, so they can find new homes and start anew.

And we need to make sure that when people are living in refugee camps,

they are cared for and treated with dignity.

Sadly, far too many women and girls in these camps face danger right now. Bathrooms and shower facilities have often become dangerous places with predators taking advantage of poor lighting to stage attacks.

After facing the trauma of being driven from their homes, women and girls in refugee camps should not have to worry about being sexually assaulted, period.

We need to do what we can to make sure that refugee camps have safe, accessible sanitation facilities for everyone. So I am pleased that we are considering legislation today that works to do just that.

Madam Speaker, with H.R. 615, the State Department, when providing overseas assistance for refugees, will seek to ensure safe access to sanitation facilities, especially for those most vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bipartisan bill. I am proud to support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act.

I want to commend my two colleagues from New York, Representatives MENG and ZELDIN, and also Chairman ENGEL for the good work on this bill.

Around the world, conflict and humanitarian disasters are causing unprecedented levels of displacement in places like South Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Nigeria, and Venezuela.

Some of these crises have dragged on for years and even decades. Generations of young people are growing up knowing only life in a refugee camp where conditions can be dire, and even dangerous, for women, children, and other vulnerable populations.

In these situations, things as basic as lights and locks can make a difference between safe restrooms and bathing facilities in dangerous environments where refugees are vulnerable to sexual violence and other crimes.

This bill amends the Foreign Relations Act to ensure support for safe sanitation facilities for refugees and displaced persons living in camps around the world.

The U.S. continues to be the largest donor to refugees and displaced persons around the world, and we will continue to lead, while encouraging other countries to step up and do more.

In closing, Madam Speaker, the United States is a leading donor of humanitarian assistance to refugees around the world. Through the work of UNHCR and NGO partners, we are saving millions of lives every day.

This bill does not increase those assistance levels but will help ensure that our funding is put to effective use

in protecting the safety and dignity of vulnerable refugees.

Madam Speaker, I want to, again, thank Chairman ENGEL and Representatives MENG and ZELDIN for their leadership, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, in closing, let me say that we are facing a refugee crisis around the world. Wars, violence, instability—millions of people have fled their homes in search of safety.

We need to do what we can to help these people find new homes and start anew. And while they are living in temporary refugee camps, we need to make sure they have the tools to stay safe and healthy.

The Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2019 provides refugee women and girls with safe access to sanitation facilities.

This is one clear, straightforward way we can help those most vulnerable people. It is a good, commonsense bill; I am pleased to support it. And I thank Mr. McCaul as well for his support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 615.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIGITAL GLOBAL ACCESS POLICY
ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1359) to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1359

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2019” or the “Digital GAP Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to—

(1) encourage the efforts of developing countries to improve and secure mobile and fixed access to the Internet in order to catalyze innovation, spur economic growth and job creation, improve health, education, and financial services, reduce poverty and gender inequality, mitigate disasters, and promote free speech, democracy, and good governance;

(2) promote build-once policies and approaches and the multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance; and

(3) ensure the effective use of United States foreign assistance resources toward that end.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings: