

person exercising acquisition decision authority for such acquisition.

“(5) ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘acquisition program’ means the process by which the Department acquires, with any appropriated amounts, by contract for purchase or lease, property or services (including construction) that support the missions and goals of the Department.

“(6) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to an acquisition program, means a summary of the cost, schedule, and performance parameters, expressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms, which must be met in order to accomplish the goals of such program.

“(7) BEST PRACTICES.—The term ‘best practices’, with respect to acquisition, means a knowledge-based approach to capability development that includes—

- “(A) identifying and validating needs;
- “(B) assessing alternatives to select the most appropriate solution;
- “(C) clearly establishing well-defined requirements;
- “(D) developing realistic cost assessments and schedules;

- “(E) securing stable funding that matches resources to requirements;

- “(F) demonstrating technology, design, and manufacturing maturity;

- “(G) using milestones and exit criteria or specific accomplishments that demonstrate progress;

- “(H) adopting and executing standardized processes with known success across programs;

- “(I) establishing an adequate workforce that is qualified and sufficient to perform necessary functions; and

- “(J) integrating the capabilities described in subparagraphs (A) through (I) into the Department’s mission and business operations.

“(8) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ means a Department acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2019 constant dollars) over its life cycle cost.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 835 the following new item:

“Sec. 836. Acquisition Review Board.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, every year, the Department of Homeland Security invests billions of dollars on major acquisition programs to execute its critical missions. It acquires systems vital to homeland security, including ships for the U.S. Coast Guard and baggage

screening systems for the Transportation Security Administration.

However, DHS’ acquisition activities are on the Government Accountability Office’s “High Risk List” because of management and funding concerns. In fact, according to GAO, only 10 of the 24 major acquisition programs have approved schedule and cost goals and are on track to meet those goals.

Given these challenges, it is critical that DHS review its major acquisition programs for proper management, oversight, and accountability.

This bill, the DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2019, seeks to strengthen the role of the Acquisition Review Board, or ARB, to improve acquisition outcomes within the Department of Homeland Security. The ARB has the potential to help ensure that DHS does not pursue programs that it can’t afford or that do not meet established cost, schedule, and performance thresholds.

Mr. Speaker, the enactment of H.R. 2609 is one mechanism within the Department to help ensure that programs are on time, on budget, and in line with the Department’s mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2609, the DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2019.

The Government Accountability Office and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General have both identified weaknesses in the Department’s management of its major acquisition programs. Poor management of these programs costs the Department billions of dollars each year.

GAO has placed DHS management functions, including acquisition management, on its “High Risk List,” programs that are highly susceptible to fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement or are in need of transformation.

The Department struggles to ensure that major acquisitions are delivered on schedule, provide the capabilities needed, and do not exceed budget. In recent years, GAO has identified 9 out of 26 major acquisition programs that experienced cost growth or schedule slips. Cost overruns totaled \$988 million, and schedules frequently slipped by an average of 6 months.

GAO also determined that approximately half of major acquisition programs deployed capabilities before all key performance parameters had been met.

It is essential that DHS establish better management tools to provide accountability in its major acquisition programs and ensure that problems are identified and addressed early.

My bill requires DHS to establish mechanisms for accountability to better manage components’ major acquisition programs by establishing an Acquisition Review Board within DHS. The board would oversee DHS’ acquisi-

tion process, review major acquisition programs, and evaluate the use of best practices.

The Under Secretary for Management will serve as the chair of the board, and the board would be required to meet regularly. The board would be responsible for determining if a proposed acquisition has met planning requirements necessary to move into the production and deployment phases.

It would also oversee a major acquisitions business strategy. The board will review the cost tradeoffs, schedules, and performance objectives of the programs.

As we seek to ensure the homeland is protected and DHS has the resources it needs to do its job, we must also ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2609, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for that fine piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from the State of Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) closes.

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2609 has the potential of fostering accountability and uniformity within the Department’s acquisition programs.

A version of this legislation was passed by the House by a voice vote in the 115th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to do the same again today.

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. CORREA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2609.

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. CORREA. 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.

#### DHS OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2590) to require a Department of Homeland Security overseas personnel enhancement plan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2590

*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 “DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019”.*

**SEC. 2. OVERSEAS PERSONNEL BRIEFING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after submission of the comprehensive 3-year strategy required under section 1910 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding Department of Homeland Security personnel with primary duties that take place outside of the United States.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The briefings required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A detailed summary of, and deployment schedule for, each type of personnel position with primary duties that take place outside of the United States and how each such position contributes to the Department of Homeland Security’s counterterrorism mission.

(2) Information related to how the geographic and regional placement of such positions contributes to the Department’s counterterrorism mission.

(3) Information related to any risk mitigation plans for each geographic and regional placement, including to address counter-intelligence risks.

(4) Information regarding the costs of deploying or maintaining personnel at each geographic and regional placement, including information on any cost-sharing agreement with foreign partners to cover a portion or all the costs relating to such deployment or maintenance.

(5) Maintain and enhance practices to guard against counter-espionage and counter-intelligence threats, including cyber threats, associated with Department personnel.

(6) Information regarding trends in foreign efforts to influence such personnel while deployed overseas to contribute to the Department’s counterterrorism mission.

(7) Information related to the position-specific training received by such personnel before and during placement at a foreign location.

(8) Challenges that may impede the communication of counterterrorism information between Department personnel at foreign locations and Department entities in the United States, including technical, resource, and administrative challenges.

(9) The status of efforts to implement the strategy referred to in subsection (a).

(10) The status of efforts (beginning with the second briefing required under this section) to implement the enhancement plan under section 3.

**SEC. 3. OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT PLAN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the first briefing required under section 2, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan to enhance the effectiveness of Department of Homeland Security personnel at foreign locations.

(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include proposals to—

(1) improve efforts of Department of Homeland Security personnel at foreign locations, as necessary, for purposes of providing foreign partner capacity development and furthering the Department’s counterterrorism mission;

(2) as appropriate, redeploy Department personnel to respond to changing threats to the United States;

(3) enhance collaboration among Department personnel at foreign locations, other Federal personnel at foreign locations, and foreign partners;

(4) improve the communication of counterterrorism information between Department personnel at foreign locations and Department entities in the United States;

sonnel at foreign locations and Department entities in the United States, including to address technical, resource, and administrative challenges; and

(5) maintain practices to guard against counter-espionage threats associated with Department personnel.

**SEC. 4. TERMINATION.**

The briefing requirement under section 2 shall terminate on the date that is four years after the submission of the strategy referred to in such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2590, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019.

A key feature of how the Department of Homeland Security carries out its border security mission is the deployment of personnel abroad to help ensure that threats are identified and addressed before they ever reach our borders.

For our part, Congress has a role to play to ensure the Department has the right policies and resources to keep Americans safe, both at home and abroad.

H.R. 2590 builds on the existing Federal mandate that requires DHS to have a 3-year strategic plan for overseas deployment of DHS personnel. The mandate enacted in 2017 was authored by the chairman of the Committee of Homeland Security, Representative THOMPSON.

H.R. 2590 would strengthen the strategic plan by requiring DHS to provide regular congressional briefings about overseas personnel. Following the first briefings, DHS would be required to submit a strategic plan to enhance the effectiveness of its overseas personnel deployments to Congress.

Subsequent briefings would track DHS efforts to enhance the effectiveness of its personnel in foreign locations.

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During committee markup of this bill, Democrats offered amendments to ensure that DHS prioritizes efforts to mitigate the risks and counterintelligence threats facing DHS personnel living overseas. As amended, it requires DHS to report on foreign efforts to influence our personnel and maintain practices to guard against these threats, including counterintelligence and cyber threats.

Pushing our borders out to mitigate threats to the homeland before they ever reach our shores is an important endeavor and one we should all support. Providing the basic information in H.R. 2590 will help Congress better understand who DHS is deploying overseas and to what end and how we can best support components with overseas missions.

I would note that DHS has yet to provide Congress with a 3-year strategy required by statute and requested by Chairman THOMPSON years ago. I hope that we do not have to wait much longer before receiving this strategy and additional information about how DHS is using its workforce overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2590, the Department of Homeland Security Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation will ensure the Department of Homeland Security develops personnel overseas in a strategic, effective, and efficient manner that will address threats before they reach the United States shores, while improving our relationships with foreign partners.

The United States Government positions many personnel from across the Federal Government overseas to liaise with their foreign counterparts, strengthen relationships, and build capacity with them. The Department of Homeland Security does this to support its critical counterterrorism mission.

H.R. 2590 will ensure that personnel deployed by Homeland Security overseas receive adequate training and mission support, while having their important perspectives heard by their colleagues back in the United States.

Moreover, this bill addresses the importance of foreign-based Homeland Security personnel to effectively coordinate with other Federal partners, such as the FBI, in support of the Department’s counterterrorism missions.

We face an ever-changing threat landscape which presents new challenges to securing air travel, public spaces, surface transportation, and critical infrastructure from terror attacks. It is imperative that we work together with foreign partners to share information, build capacity, and learn from each other to respond to a dynamic threat environment, much the same as I did for many years on State, local, and Federal gang task forces.

I thank Representative WATSON COLEMAN for cosponsoring this important legislation, as well as Ranking Member ROGERS and Chairman THOMPSON for their support of this measure. I also want to thank my good friend from California (Mr. CORREA), who is handling the bill on the Democratic side.

