

hotels, at our malls, at our stores—a lot of money that has been spent here in the United States. But the last couple years, we have seen a different trend.

While international tourist arrivals in the U.S. have totaled 79.6 million visitors, which has been almost a 5 percent increase, a 4.2 percent increase, the tourism from Mexico has actually decreased, and, again, for different reasons.

Again, if we call them murderers, rapists, and other words, they are not going to come and spend the money. So we have to make sure that we get our friends to the south to come back and spend money because, again, in 2016, Mexican tourism to the United States peaked at almost 19 million, which means that one out of every four international visitors, that is almost 25 percent of the tourists coming from across the world, was coming here to the United States from Mexico.

Madam Speaker, this is why, with Chairman ENGEL and my good friend, the ranking member, MICHAEL MCCAUL, we are trying to make sure that we get this tourism back because, again, it is good for our economy.

What does this bill do? Basically, it is asking that we focus on doing a couple things:

Having the State Department develop a strategy to expand this bilateral tourism with Mexico;

Encouraging collaboration between governmental and nongovernmental entities;

Making sure that this strategy is at the highest level, which is, again, at the High Level Economic Dialogue platform with Mexico; and

Making sure that the Mexican Government is involved.

I have spoken to some of the Mexican congressmen that we met last time we were there, like, for example, Congressman Luis Alegre from the Cancun area. They know that this tourism business is very important.

Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank the chairman; I want to thank the ranking member; and, again, I want to thank the staff for putting this bill up.

Madam Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues in the House to pass this measure which will return the economic benefits of bilateral tourism with Mexico again to our U.S. businesses and entrepreneurs.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Laredo, Texas, who really made a good case for this bill. He knows, being the largest land port in the United States, what trade and tourism means for Mexico and the United States.

This bill will not only strengthen our economies, which is always a positive thing, but I think it will strengthen our relationship. It will also strengthen our security, working together, and it deepens our rich cultural ties that

we have and that we know is so important.

I think it is good for both nations, a step forward in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my good friend HENRY CUELLAR for bringing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, the U.S.-Mexico relationship is too important to be held hostage to petty politics, and yet here we are again for the last 2 weeks.

We don't want to hurt the U.S.-Mexico relationship. In fact, I was in Mexico City just a few weeks ago and met with the new Mexican President, who told us that he really wanted to have good relations and work closely with us. I was impressed with him because he has a steady hand.

I think that we should not be alienating our neighbors. We should be welcoming them, welcoming the partnership with them.

We don't want to undermine tourism; we don't want to hurt Americans; and we don't want to raise taxes on the working class while doing nothing to address the humanitarian challenges on the U.S.-Mexico border.

I am glad that we seem to not be going that way in terms of clashing with Mexico, but, again, this is a win-win bill: a win for us because it helps tourism, a win for Mexico as well.

Congress has chosen to pursue a positive agenda with Mexico instead. This legislation will play an important role in showcasing the mutually beneficial relationship Congress and most Americans want with Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I again thank Mr. CUELLAR for his continued leadership and for wanting a stronger relationship between the United States and Mexico. I thank the ranking member, as usual, for working with us on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, 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. 951, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE IN DISPLACED POPULATIONS ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2140) to prevent child marriage in United Nations-administered refugee settlements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2140

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 "Preventing Child Marriage in Displaced Populations Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to UNICEF, 12 million girls marry before the age of 18 every year.

(2) Early marriage denies children, especially girls, their right to make vital decisions about their well-being, including relating to their health, family, and career. Child brides are less likely to finish their education, and are at higher risk for abuse, contracting HIV, and dying while pregnant or giving birth.

(3) Child marriage also imposes substantial economic costs to developing countries, impeding development and prosperity gains.

(4) Displaced populations are particularly vulnerable to child marriage, in communities where poverty, instability, and displacement put pressure on families to marry children, particularly young girls, off at a young age.

(5) One United Nations (UN) study found that child marriage rates were four times higher among displaced Syrian refugees than among Syrians before the crisis. This indicates that displacement, instability, and poverty are driving child marriages.

(6) United Nations agencies, including UNICEF and UNHCR, have acknowledged the dangers of child marriage and taken steps to address its risk in the populations they serve.

(7) The UN Joint Program on Child Marriage supports this work by building the resilience of populations to indirectly prevent child marriage and by generating new data and evidence on the prevalence of child marriage in humanitarian and fragile settings. For example, in Uganda, the UN Joint Program on Child Marriage helped 27,000 adolescent girls strengthen critical skills through school clubs and Go Back to School campaigns, as well as life-skills and financial literacy training.

(8) After the UN Joint Program on Child Marriage identified Yemen as one of its focus countries, 65,000 people, of whom 45,000 are adolescents, were reached with awareness raising activities on the harms of child marriage in 2018 alone. As a result, local council representatives, elders, and community leaders from six districts signed a pledge to support advocacy efforts to end child marriage.

SEC. 3. PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE IN DISPLACED POPULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to call for an adoption of an agreed-upon definition of "child marriage" across United Nations agencies.

(b) STRATEGY.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to call for the development of a comprehensive strategy to address child marriage in refugee settlements administered by the United Nations. Such strategy should include the following:

(1) A mandate to regularly collect and report data related to the number of known or suspected child marriages taking place inside each such settlement.

(2) Protocols for United Nations personnel regarding prevention and monitoring of child marriages inside each such settlement.

(3) A description of United Nations programs administered at such settlements that include—

(A) physical, mental, and emotional rehabilitation and support to children who have extricated themselves from child marriage; and

(B) alternatives to child marriage, such as education initiatives.

(4) Protocols regarding how United Nations personnel should—

(A) report adults participating in illegal child marriages in each such settlement; and

(B) monitor the prosecution of such adults by the authorities of the country in which the settlement at issue is located.

(c) RESEARCH.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to advocate for the United Nations and its appropriate agencies to include, as appropriate, in all of its research into child marriage the relationship between child marriage and violence against girls, including young children and infants.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHILD MARRIAGE.—The term “child marriage” means a formal marriage or informal union involving at least one person younger than age 18.

(2) ILLEGAL CHILD MARRIAGE.—The term “illegal child marriage” means a child marriage that is illegal under the laws of the country in which the child marriage occurs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) 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. 2140, as amended.

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, let me start by thanking the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for offering this bill and for shining a light on the problem of illegal child marriage, particularly among vulnerable refugee populations. I am grateful for Mrs. WAGNER's leadership on an issue that we should all support. It is really important to all get around it.

Child marriage, Madam Speaker, deprives young people of their futures and hinders the progress of development work all over the world.

UNICEF reports that 12 million girls marry before the age of 18 every single year. What does that mean for these girls? It takes away their right to make vital decisions about their well-being, about their health, their family, their future.

Child brides are also less likely to finish their education and are at higher risk for abuse, contracting HIV, and dying while pregnant or giving birth.

Refugee populations are particularly vulnerable to child marriage. Poverty,

instability, and displacement pressure families into marrying off children, particularly young girls, at an early age.

For example, child marriage among Syrian refugees in Jordan increased from 15 percent in 2014 to 36 percent in 2018. One survey of Syrian refugees in Lebanon found that nearly a quarter of girls between 15 and 17 were married.

In Bangladesh, Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Burma have reported marrying off young girls to protect them from sexual violence.

Stopping this cycle and ending illegal child marriage is critical to supporting refugees and empowering youth for a better future.

A number of U.N. agencies are doing important work to address child marriage among the populations they serve. For example, the U.N.'s Joint Program on Child Marriage, a joint effort between UNICEF and UNFPA, is gathering new data and evidence on this problem and helping to build resilience in vulnerable populations, including refugees.

□ 2000

But there is much more we can be doing, and this bill demonstrates American support for tackling this problem. It would require us to flex our muscles in the U.N. to come up with a comprehensive definition of child marriage. It would also require a new strategy to ensure that displaced populations have the protections and the tools to avoid illegal child marriage.

We want to empower young people to have a better future, and this bill will help us get at a problem that threatens far too many futures, so I am pleased to support this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2140, the Preventing Child Marriage in Displaced Populations Act, and I thank the chairman, along with the ranking member and all of my colleagues, for supporting this piece of bipartisan legislation through Foreign Affairs.

Humanitarian crises put women and girls at a much higher risk of violence and exploitation, including child marriage. Nine of the ten countries with the highest rates of child marriage are fragile states where weak institutions, high rates of violence, and stagnant economies make families more likely to resort to child marriage.

One United Nations study found that child marriage rates were four times higher among displaced Syrian refugees than among Syrians before the crisis. This indicates that displacement, instability, and poverty are driving child marriages.

Important research conducted by UNICEF revealed that, in 2018, more than 700 million women and girls, worldwide, were married before their

18th birthday; and of these, 250 million were married before their 15th birthday. Madam Speaker, these women are more likely to experience domestic violence and have worse educational, economic, and health prospects than their unmarried peers.

United Nations agencies have acknowledged the dangers of child marriage and taken steps to address it. The U.N. Joint Program on Child Marriage builds the resilience of populations to indirectly prevent child marriage and generates data and evidence on the prevalence of child marriage in humanitarian and fragile settings.

In Uganda, the U.N. Joint Program on Child Marriage helped 27,000 adolescent girls strengthen critical skills through school clubs and Go Back to School campaigns, as well as life skills and financial literacy training.

Last year, after the U.N. Joint Program on Child Marriage identified Yemen as one of its focus countries, 65,000 people, of whom 45,000 were adolescents, were reached with awareness-raising activities on the harms of child marriage. As a result, local council representatives, elders, and community leaders from six districts signed a pledge to support advocacy efforts to end child marriage.

My legislation would direct the United States to lead U.N. efforts to adopt a definition of “child marriage” and craft a comprehensive strategy to address child marriages in U.N.-administered refugee settlements. This strategy would include protocols to prevent and monitor child marriages; programs to provide physical, mental, and emotional support for victims; programs offering alternatives for child marriage; and measures to ensure that adults who are participating in illegal child marriages are held accountable.

Child marriage is a violation of human rights and a form of violence against women and children. I urge my colleagues to support the Preventing Child Marriage in Displaced Populations Act.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the chairman for working with the ranking member, myself, and all of our colleagues on a bipartisan basis to make sure that we are supporting women and girls in these U.N. refugee camps. It is wonderful to be part of a committee that works in such a strong, bipartisan fashion. I am grateful for their support.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, first, I want to thank the author of this bill for her kind words.

As she pointed out, child marriage is a problem that befalls far too many young people around the world, especially among desperate families who, because of poverty or instability, feel they have no choice but to commit their children to marriage. Of course, when this happens, it starts another cycle of poverty and instability, of abuse and illness. It is just a tragedy.

This is one of those issues where we look at the situation and see a moral obligation to act. Dealing with this problem in our foreign policy is a reflection of our country's values, of our commitment to the rights and dignity of all people. This bill will help make sure our policy stays aligned with those values and that we are doing more to end the scourge of child marriage.

I again thank Representative WAGNER for her work on this measure. I urge all Members to support it.

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. 2140, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill To prevent child marriage in refugee settlements administered by the United Nations, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT ALL HUMAN LIFE

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud the Trump administration for its proactive steps to ban fetal tissue research.

Last week, HHS terminated the NIH's \$13 million contract with the University of California, San Francisco for research involving human fetal tissue from elective abortions.

Madam Speaker, we should not use aborted babies for research, period. Furthermore, we don't need to because there are scientifically credible alternatives, and this administration is expanding them.

Just last December, NIH announced \$20 million for finding ethical alternatives to fetal tissue research. Yet the Democratic Party supports research with aborted baby parts, refuses to protect babies born alive after an attempted abortion, and even decries the Hyde amendment, the most basic of protections for taxpayer money.

Thankfully, our pro-life President will ensure that only forward steps will be taken to protect all human life.

PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to spend today addressing the events over the weekend with regard to President Trump's decision and then decision to withdraw the threat of a 5 percent tariff on goods coming in through Mexico.

I particularly want to comment with regard to observations that I have made, because 10 days ago I was in Mexico in the Laredo sector of the border, and about 4 months ago I was in the Tucson sector of the border. Both times, I received a thorough tour of the border from our great Border Patrol, and the observations that I have made down there lead me to believe that we ought to stick with President Trump as he does what he can to defend our border. Indeed, my analysis in both Arizona and Texas is that, right now, we are facing one of the greatest threats to the future of America.

Before going into it in general, I would like to thank our Border Patrol for all the wonderful things they are doing.

I don't know how many Americans know that, right now, our Border Patrol has 2,000 empty positions. The Border Patrol should have 21,000 people. It has got only 19,000 people on the border.

Right now, we are in the position in which the Border Patrol is processing

over 130,000 people a month, up from only a bit over 40,000 a month just 7 or 8 years ago. This means, since, like everything else in the world, a lot of paperwork is required wherever something is done, that the Border Patrol is woefully underfunded and understaffed.

I would like to apologize to the Border Patrol for a statement made by one of my colleagues in which she stated:

With five kids that have died, 5,000 separated from their families, I feel like the evidence is really clear that this is intentional. It is a policy choice being made on purpose, and it is cruel and inhumane.

Madam Speaker, I will tell you, those Border Patrol folks and the customs people are working as hard as they possibly can. Maybe people don't realize that, last month, over 13,000 unaccompanied minors came across the border. That is not people who are separated from their families. Those are minors who come in separated from their families. Many of these people have spent days coming through Mexico to come here.

We were told that that one of the problems they had is that, when Border Patrol began to take care of kids, some of these kids were used to having one meal every 2 days. It took a while for their bodies to get used to having three meals a day. They are receiving medical care within the first 48 hours they are here and thorough medical care within 72 hours after they come here.

I would say that people coming here are getting better medical care than perhaps they have ever had in their life—and surely better nutrition than they have had in a long time, better education than they have had in a long time.

For Members of Congress to respond to the great deal that the Border Patrol is doing when, inevitably, despite their best efforts, a couple of people have come here without medical treatment for weeks, to claim that the Border Patrol or somehow the administration is intentionally allowing kids to die after they worked so hard to save the kids is one of the most embarrassing things I have seen in this Congress.

I assure members of the Border Patrol that, at least among the people I hang around with, we respect the job they are doing, and I invite all of my colleagues to come down to the border so they don't make a ridiculous statement that, when a few people are not able to be kept alive down there, it is something done on purpose.

□ 2015

Let's look at the crisis down there and the hand Donald Trump is being dealt.

In May, the Border Patrol itself—and this is before Customs, just the Border Patrol—found over 130,000 people crossing the border. The vast majority of those came here seeking asylum, which means they aren't going to be kicked out. They are given a court date 3, 4, or 5 years out in the future and given a green card to go find a job.

HONORING ATLANTIC COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, since its start in the 1940s, the Atlantic County 4-H program has encouraged young people from all communities and backgrounds to immerse themselves in areas of science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement.

The Atlantic County 4-H program is one of the longest running programs in the country and teaches valuable life skills to youth in grades K-13. Through 4-H, these young people are engaged in a variety of hands-on projects from livestock to computer science, from gardening to expressive arts.

These experiences, of course, could not be possible without the help of volunteers. We are honored to have over 40 volunteers in Hammonton, among many others, and I want to particularly thank a few members of the community who have dedicated many years of service and of their time and expertise to this program.

Thank you to Kathleen Einwechter, who has been volunteering for 25 years.

Thank you to Al Schollenberger, who has been volunteering for 45 years.

And thank you to Dorothy Calimer, who has been giving her time and care to this program for 50 years.

You and all of our community flourish, and I am excited to celebrate you today. I am excited about your work, about your volunteerism, and about the difference that you make.