

COMMENDING GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR UPHOLDING RULE OF LAW AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 521) commanding the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People's Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., executive.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 521

Whereas, on December 1, 2018, Canadian authorities detained Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou based on an arrest warrant issued pursuant to a request made by the United States under the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and Canada, signed at Washington December 3, 1971;

Whereas, on January 24, 2019, the United States filed a superseding indictment in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York against Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. ("Huawei"), Huawei Device USA Inc., Skycom Tech Co. Ltd. ("Skycom"), and Meng Wanzhou;

Whereas the January 24, 2019, indictment charges two counts of bank fraud, two counts of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, one count of wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, two counts of conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, two counts of violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, one count of money laundering conspiracy, and one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice;

Whereas the January 24, 2019, indictment charges that "Huawei operated Skycom as an unofficial subsidiary to obtain otherwise prohibited U.S.-origin goods, technology, and services, including banking services, for Huawei's Iran-based business while concealing the link to Huawei";

Whereas the United States Government is seeking the extradition of Meng Wanzhou;

Whereas Canadian authorities granted Meng Wanzhou access to Chinese consular officials, and she was able to engage a lawyer of her choice and was released on bail pending the outcome of the extradition hearing;

Whereas the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly urged Canada "to immediately release" Meng Wanzhou and threatened that otherwise "it will definitely have grave consequences, and [Canada] will have to bear the full responsibility for it";

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China detained Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian executive Michael Spavor on December 10, 2018, in apparent retaliation for the arrest of Meng Wanzhou;

Whereas Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig have faced harsh conditions while in detention that include limited consular access, no access to a lawyer, being unable to turn off the lights at night, and lengthy interrogations, including in the case of Mr. Kovrig, about his official activities during his previous tenure as an accredited diplomat in the People's Republic of China, po-

tentially in violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961;

Whereas, on January 14, 2019, a third Canadian, Robert Schellenberg, in Chinese custody for drug smuggling, had his case reviewed and his 15-year sentence changed to the death penalty;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2018 stated that "[a]rbitrary arrest and detention remained serious problems" in China and that Chinese judges "regularly received political guidance on pending cases, including instructions on how to rule, from both the government and the CCP [Chinese Communist Party], particularly in politically sensitive cases"; and

Whereas while neither Michael Kovrig nor Michael Spavor has been formally charged with any crime under Chinese law, the Government of the People's Republic of China formally arrested them on May 6, 2019, following their detention on December 10, 2018: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and complying with its international legal obligations, including those pursuant to the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and Canada, signed at Washington December 3, 1971;

(2) commends the Government of Canada for providing consular access and due process for Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou;

(3) expresses concern over the Government of the People's Republic of China's apparent arbitrary detention and abusive treatment of Canadian nationals Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig in apparent retaliation for the Government of Canada's detention of Meng Wanzhou; and

(4) joins the Government of Canada in calling for the immediate release of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig and for due process for Canadian national Robert Schellenberg.

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. Mr. 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. Res. 521.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan resolution, and I was glad to join Ranking Member McCaul as a cosponsor of this bill. This measure deals with something that we have all seen lately—how China responds to those who go against the Chinese Communist Party's agenda. Whether we are talking about individuals, private companies, or countries, China doesn't hesitate to extort, coerce, and punish those who challenge it.

Right now, our neighbor to the north, Canada, is experiencing this firsthand.

Back in December, Canada arrested and extradited the chief financial officer of Chinese company Huawei for her role in violating American sanctions law. The Canadians were completely in the right here. They were upholding the rule of law.

China launched an outrageous response, arresting two innocent Canadian citizens on trumped-up charges. These men are still languishing in China's detention and legal process limbo, deprived of their freedom and denied basic consular rights—rights that all countries should honor—solely because China wanted to use them in a political bullying tactic. Their rights went out the window.

This is an outrageous affront to the rule of law, and we must condemn it.

H. Res. 521 denounces this practice by China and sends a clear signal that the United States Congress stands with Canada in demanding the immediate release of their innocent citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this good measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution commanding the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern about China's use of hostage diplomacy.

I thank Chairman ENGEL for cosponsoring this resolution with me. As always, we work in a very bipartisan way on this committee.

This resolution recognizes Canada's help with the extradition of Huawei Technologies' chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou. It also expresses concern with China's retaliatory and hostile actions against Canadian citizens detained in China.

China's hostage diplomacy is abhorrent. As retaliation for Canada's arrest of Ms. MENG, Canadian citizens Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor have been detained in China since last year. They have been denied due process and have been subjected to harsh conditions, such as limited consular access, no attorney representation, and lengthy interrogations. Meanwhile, Ms. MENG has received proper treatment in Canadian custody and is currently released on bail.

The cases show the stark contrast between Canada's commitment to the rule of law and China's.

I commend Canada and regret that Canadian citizens are paying the price of China's malfeasance. Canada's citizens must be released immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the people of Canada for standing with us to uphold the rule of law and assist in the extradition of Huawei's CFO, who is accused of willfully violating United States sanctions to proliferate technology to Iran. It is unacceptable that the Chinese Communist Party is punishing innocent Canadian citizens to interfere in this criminal process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this and stand in solidarity with Canada. Huawei is creeping around the world with 5G technology. Everywhere we see One Belt, One Road, we see 5G being planted down in these countries. They literally steal data from these countries, now covering half of the globe.

We are in a race with China, and we need to combat their espionage and intellectual property theft.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Ranking Member McCaul for his leadership in introducing this measure and his hard work in seeing its passage.

China is flouting the international rule of law, targeting anyone who goes against them. And now, they have our ally Canada in their crosshairs.

This is a commonsense resolution that shows the United States condemns this behavior and stands with our ally and with the families of those unjustly detained.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I thank Mr. McCaul for introducing it, 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 521.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR CEMETERY RESEARCH AND PRODUCING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2385) to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2385

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

SECTION 1. GRANTS FOR CEMETERY RESEARCH AND THE PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program.

(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section to any of the following entities:

(A) An institution of higher learning.

(B) A local education agency.

(C) A non-profit entity that the Secretary determines has a demonstrated history of community engagement.

(D) Another recipient the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under this section may use the grant amount to—

(A) conduct research related to national, State, or Tribal veterans' cemeteries;

(B) produce education materials that teach about the history of veterans interred in national, State, or Tribal veterans' cemeteries; and

(C) promote community engagement with the histories of veterans interred in national, State, or Tribal veterans' cemeteries.

(4) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this section may not exceed \$500,000.

(b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary establishes a grant program under this section, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations regarding—

(1) the evaluation of applications for grants under the program; and

(2) administration of the program.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than two years after the Secretary establishes a grant program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report regarding the determination of the Secretary whether the grant program is a financially effective means to promote the purposes in subsection (a)(3).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “Veterans Legacy Program” means the program of the National Cemetery Administration that is responsible for providing engagement and educational tools and opportunities to the public regarding the service and sacrifice of veterans interred in national, State, or Tribal veterans’ cemeteries.

(2) The term “institution of higher learning” has the meaning given that term in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States Code.

(3) The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given that term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2385, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2385, as amended. This bill was introduced by Representative CONOR LAMB, vice chair of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. It would permit the Secretary of the VA to use grants rather than Federal contracts to fund cemetery research programs and produce educational materials as part of the Veterans Legacy Program. Switching to a grant program would ease many administrative burdens associated with Federal contracts, allow for more timely payment, and broaden the reach of the program to smaller organizations.

The Veterans Legacy Program was launched by VA’s National Cemetery Administration in order to resurrect the stories of veterans interred at national cemeteries, to educate future generations, and to honor the legacy of our Nation’s heroes.

This program is a broad collection of public history materials that tell the story of America’s veterans buried in national cemeteries. It supports the National Cemetery Administration’s mission to honor and memorialize our veterans by creating educational materials that local educators can use to teach their students and others about the veterans buried in local cemeteries.

Currently, the National Cemetery Administration awards Federal contracts to colleges, universities, and other institutions to support the Veterans Legacy Program. These contract awards are used to develop specific curricula.

Eligible recipients of these contracts include institutions of higher learning, local education agencies, nonprofit entities the Secretary determines have a demonstrated history of community engagement, or any other recipient the Secretary deems appropriate.

Contract funds can also be used to conduct research related to national, State, or Tribal veterans’ cemeteries and produce educational materials about or promote community engagement with the history of the veterans interred at those cemeteries. The maximum contract amount is \$500,000. Presently, 16 separate contracts have been awarded, which have produced an impressive array of digital and nondigital resources.

Cemetery directors say that they are pleased to see students visiting the cemeteries as part of their studies. This renewed interest, by the young and old alike, revives the lives and stories of American veterans.

However, the National Cemetery Administration and the institutions of higher education that most often receive and utilize these contracts tell us that working with grants is much more efficient and easier for them to administer than contracts.

For instance, grants allow an award cycle that more closely aligns with the academic calendar of schools and colleges. Administrators of the Veterans Legacy Program said grant programs would help increase the reach of the program beyond large universities to smaller groups that want to become involved.

A grant program also allows for faster funding. Contracts involve a one-time payment for work at the end of the project. A grant configuration, however, would allow for fluid and regular payments throughout the course of the work.

Memorializing veterans is a primary responsibility of this committee, and we need to support innovative ideas for bringing energy and interest into national veterans’ cemeteries. The Veterans Legacy Program is just that.