

Portugal is a longstanding United States ally, with “bilateral ties dating from the earliest years of the United States, when Portugal recognized the United States in 1791 following the Revolutionary War.”

The United States is also Portugal’s largest trading partner outside the European Union (EU), with bilateral trade in goods and services reaching \$8 billion in 2018, a 9 percent increase from the previous year.

Similarly, U.S. direct investment in Portugal reached \$2.1 billion in 2017, with U.S. companies playing a significant role, investing in the Portuguese banking, pharmaceutical, and chemical industries.

Both countries have also agreed to a bilateral income tax agreement to prevent double taxation.

Portuguese participation in the E–1 and E–2 visa programs will deepen an already strong bilateral trade and investment relationship, and benefit business communities in both countries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 565, “The Advancing Mutual Interests and Growing Our Success Act” or AMIGOS Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 565, 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.

GOOD CONDUCT TIME CREDITS FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4018) to provide that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the prisoner, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4018

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

SECTION 1. GOOD CONDUCT TIME CREDITS FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS.

Section 231(g)(5)(A)(ii) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60541(g)(5)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “to which the offender was sentenced” and inserting “reduced by any credit toward the service of the prisoner’s sentence awarded under section 3624(b) of title 18, United States Code”.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that

such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4018 is a modest, but important, bill that I introduced with Ranking Member COLLINS to address an inadvertent drafting error in the Second Chance Act, one that has prevented elderly offenders who qualify for early release under a pilot program for compassionate release from receiving credit for the good conduct time they have accrued while in custody.

Our Nation’s Federal prison population is rapidly aging. Of the 1.5 million adults currently in State and Federal prisons, there has been a 300 percent spike in the elderly population since 1999. By 2050, it is estimated that one-third of the prison population of the United States will be over age 50.

Today more people die of old age in U.S. prisons than ever before, and from 2001 to 2007 alone, nearly 8,500 people over age 55 died behind bars. The Federal prisoner reentry initiative, a pilot program created under the Second Chance Act, allows offenders who are elderly and have served at least two-thirds of their sentence to petition for release from prison and to serve their remaining term of imprisonment in a halfway house. This program is not only humane, it is fiscally responsible.

The increasing number of elderly prisoners is leading to soaring costs for the Bureau of Prisons. With a more elderly prisoner population, prison infrastructure must be outfitted or equipped to accommodate the unique needs of elderly prisoners. Prisons need to be outfitted with ramps, lower bed heights, bunk beds eliminated, handrails installed in showers, and other structural changes. Also, prison staff need to be trained to work with elderly prisoners and move elderly prisoners around the facilities.

We imprison too many elderly inmates unnecessarily for far too long, and the data reveals that the recidivism rate is reduced dramatically as the population ages. Good conduct time is provided to all prisoners who have satisfactory behavior in the Bureau of Prisons. A prisoner can earn 54 days of good conduct time or days off their sentence per year, however, due to an inadvertent error in the Federal

prisoner reentry initiative, elderly inmates are not permitted to receive credit for good conduct.

Elderly inmates, who otherwise have satisfactory behavior, should not lose the good conduct time they have earned solely as a result of this drafting error. Such an unjust result was not the intent of Congress when drafting the Second Chance Act, as the intent behind this compassionate program is to release a vulnerable population from prison when they present little risk to their communities.

H.R. 4018 would correct this problem, and therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4018, the elderly offender good conduct time legislation. Last year, Ranking Member COLLINS and Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES led the way in drafting and shepherding through Congress the First Step Act. Attorney General Barr has repeatedly stated his intent to fully implement the provisions of the act.

Our job as legislators in this space is twofold; first, to conduct oversight to ensure the First Step Act is responsibly implemented; and, two, to address issues in that implementation.

One such technical issue is addressed by H.R. 4018. This bill would allow the Bureau of Prisons to transfer eligible elderly, nonviolent offenders from BOP facilities into home confinement when they have reached 60 years of age and served two-thirds of the term of imprisonment to which they were sentenced.

This is a bill technical in nature designed to correct a flaw in the First Step Act that will promote fairness in the implementation of good conduct time, as reformed in the First Step Act, and ensure our prisons do not become nursing homes. I believe that if we do not ensure that this act works, we will lose credibility with the American people, and any future efforts to reform our criminal justice system will fail.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same. I thank the gentleman for his support of this fine legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CLINE, Chairman NADLER, Ranking Member COLLINS, and Mr. JEFFRIES for their leadership on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the process for earning time off for good conduct in prison is important as a matter of fairness and also effective prison administration.

Individuals who earn good conduct time should not lose credit for this time because of an error in a statute, and elderly, nonviolent offenders should receive credit for the time they have earned.

Therefore, H.R. 4018 is required to address an unfortunate, inadvertent

error. I am glad that it will. I appreciate the support, and for all of these reasons I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this good, bipartisan bill.

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 Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4018, 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.

SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS (TB), MALARIA, AND ITS SIXTH REPLENISHMENT

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 517) supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and its Sixth Replenishment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 517

Whereas the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria is an effective partnership of governments, the private sector, civil society, and affected communities to transform the response to these epidemics;

Whereas since the Global Fund's creation in 2002, and in close cooperation with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), more than 32,000,000 lives have been saved in countries where the Global Fund invests;

Whereas the Global Fund has contributed to extraordinary improvements in global health, including by helping to reduce by half the number of AIDS-related deaths since 2005, contributing to a 37-percent decline in TB deaths from 2000 to 2016, and a 60-percent decline in the number of malaria deaths since 2000;

Whereas the Global Fund and its partners work to uphold a steadfast commitment to transparency and accountability, receiving high marks in multilateral aid reviews and by independent watchdogs;

Whereas despite progress achieved to date in combating AIDS, TB, and malaria, significant challenges threaten future progress, including drug and insecticide resistance, reaching marginalized and vulnerable populations, and complacency in the fight against infectious diseases;

Whereas United States leadership has been critical to the Global Fund's success as its largest donor and through its oversight role on the Board of the Global Fund;

Whereas the Global Fund amplifies and supports the results of United States bilateral health programs, including the PEPFAR, the President's Malaria Initiative, and the United States Agency for International Development TB program;

Whereas a statutory cap on United States contributions to the Global Fund has successfully leveraged increased contributions from other donors in prior Global Fund replenishments;

Whereas the United Kingdom and Japan, for example, already have pledged significant

increases to the Global Fund for the Sixth Replenishment;

Whereas the Global Fund's requirements for cofinancing have spurred domestic investments, with recipient countries committing 41 percent more of their own funding to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria for 2018 to 2020 compared to 2015 to 2017;

Whereas recipient countries are expected to increase their co-financing by 48 percent, growing to \$46,000,000,000 from 2021 to 2023; and

Whereas with these resources secured, the Global Fund projects it will reduce the number of deaths due to AIDS, TB, and malaria by nearly 50 percent, avert 234,000,000 infections or disease cases, and save an additional 16,000,000 lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages the Global Fund and its partners to continue their valuable contributions to end the epidemics of AIDS, TB, and malaria;

(2) affirms previous commitments of the United States to providing 33 percent of the budget to the Global Fund, including for the Sixth Global Fund Replenishment held on October 10, 2019, in Lyon, France, as demonstrated by the \$1,560,000,000 provided by H.R. 2839 in the 116th Congress (providing FY2020 appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs), as passed by the House of Representatives;

(3) urges donor countries to step up the fight and increase their pledges for the Sixth Global Fund Replenishment and supports continued diplomatic engagement to improve burden sharing;

(4) urges Global Fund recipient countries to continue to make and meet ambitious cofinancing commitments to sustain progress in ending the epidemics of AIDS, TB, and malaria; and

(5) encourages United States bilateral aid programs to continue their collaboration with the Global Fund to maximize the lifesaving impact of global health investments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. 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. 517.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, there is no better example of American interests and values intersecting in our foreign policy than global health issues.

On the one hand, global health challenges are strategic challenges. Countries and communities with poor access to healthcare are less productive, less stable, less able to act as strong partners. Unchecked, pandemics can blow across borders and make their way to our own shores, threatening the American people, so we have a real interest

in working to tackle global health problems.

At the same time, we, as Americans, want to see people everywhere lead healthy, happy lives, and access to healthcare allows more people to pursue greater opportunity.

That is why, over the last two decades, the Global Fund has been such a remarkable foreign policy initiative. It has helped reduce by half the number of AIDS-related deaths worldwide since 2005. From 2000 to 2016, it contributed to a 37 percent decline in tuberculosis deaths. Since the year 2000, the Global Fund has helped reduce the number of deaths from malaria by 60 percent.

America's contributions to the Global Fund have helped to fund these vital programs, and our leadership has helped drive billions in additional investments from other donors and recipient states. In October, the Global Fund received pledges of more than \$14 billion for the next 3 years from 75 donors. Sixteen million people will benefit from this lifesaving assistance.

This is work that we should all be proud of. It has helped advance core American interests around the world. It has shown the character of our country, our spirit of generosity and compassion.

It is essential that the Global Fund's work continues. That is why I am proud to support this measure from Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL. This resolution puts the House on the record reaffirming our support for the Global Fund, reiterating how important its work is. It says that the funding the House already approved for next year shall go forward because the Global Fund's future success depends on American involvement.

The Global Fund has built a tremendous record of success. We need to keep that record going so that we can continue to help people around the world withstand life-threatening but preventable diseases.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 517, a resolution by Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL, supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The Global Fund is a financing partnership of governments, private donors, and civil societies that have a shared purpose of ending HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. Since its founding in 2002, the Global Fund is credited with saving millions of lives.

Nor is our contribution to combat these diseases limited to the Global Fund. As my colleagues know, since its inception in 2002, the Global Fund has worked with U.S. programs, such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which has radically and positively changed the course of health outcomes.