

NTDs represent a group of parasitic and bacterial diseases that currently afflict more than 1.4 billion people worldwide. They can result in severe disabilities such as blindness, compounding existing social and economic challenges in the areas where these diseases thrive.

To be clear, the United States has taken a leadership role in the fight against NTDs. As many of these diseases have approved treatments, USAID's NTD program has supplied medicine to key impacted countries using an innovative public-private partnership, as Congressman SMITH aluded to.

Since 2006, USAID has leveraged more than \$22 billion in donated medicines to provide about \$2.6 billion in treatments. However, there is much more to be done, especially to build global political support to fight NTDs.

To that end, this bill directs our flagship global health program, PEPFAR, to find opportunities to integrate NTD research and care into their existing efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, where appropriate.

To lessen the U.S. burden in this fight, this bill also encourages greater participation in the research, treatment, and care of NTDs from the Global Fund, the United Nations, and other G-20 partners.

NTDs pose a significant threat to health outcomes and have a detrimental effect on developing economies. I again thank Mr. SMITH for his great leadership on this issue. And, once again, to pass something in this House that will save lives is truly one of the most gratifying experiences that we, as Members of Congress, have.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank Mr. SMITH for all his hard work on this bill.

This legislation shows so clearly how we can use development and diplomacy in tandem to help meet serious global challenges. It is why diplomacy and development are so important in our foreign policy.

There is no doubt that neglected tropical diseases have a major road-block for impoverished communities around the world. There is also no doubt that we have the tools to combat them if we can garner the resources and the political will to get the job done. That is what this bill aims to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes" on this measure, 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 Jersey (Mr. SIRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3460.

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.

□ 1645

DISAPPROVING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S INCLUSION IN FUTURE GROUP OF SEVEN SUMMITS UNTIL IT RESPECTS THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ITS NEIGHBORS AND ADHERES TO THE STANDARDS OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 546) disapproving the Russian Federation's inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 546

Whereas, in 2014, Russia illegally occupied Ukraine's Crimea region and parts of eastern Ukraine;

Whereas these actions are in direct violation of fundamental principles of international law, as well as the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum;

Whereas, in 1998, the Group of Seven invited Russia to join the group in an effort to encourage continued political and economic reforms in Russia;

Whereas, in March 2014, the Group of Eight suspended Russia as a direct result of its actions in Ukraine, and instead continued as the Group of Seven;

Whereas, on April 3, 2014, President Barack Obama signed into law the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014, which states that "it is the policy of the United States that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight (G-8) nations should be conditioned on the Government of the Russian Federation respecting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by every other member nation of the G-8 nations";

Whereas, since 2014, the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, has continued to violate international law in Ukraine's Crimea region and elsewhere, and has continued to undermine democracy and human rights both at home and abroad; and

Whereas, on August 26, 2019, President Donald Trump, announced his intention to invite the President of Russia to next year's Group of Seven summit: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reiterates its unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(2) condemns Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine, including the illegal occupation of Crimea and ongoing destabilization of eastern Ukraine;

(3) condemns the Kremlin's assaults on democratic societies worldwide, including in the United States and other Group of Seven countries;

(4) reaffirms its full support for the suspension of Russia from the Group of Eight;

(5) calls on all leaders of the Group of Seven to oppose the readmission of Russia unless and until it has ended its occupation of all of Ukraine's sovereign territory, including Crimea, and halts its attacks on democracies worldwide; and

(6) disapproves of Russia's inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

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).

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. 546.

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, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL, Ranking Member McCaul, and members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their unanimous support for H. Res. 546 during its markup, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

In 2014, Russia was expelled from the Group of Eight as a direct result of its aggressive actions in Ukraine, including the invasion of the Crimea region. The remaining seven nations agreed that Russia's future inclusion would be conditioned on its respect of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Later in 2014, this international agreement was codified into U.S. law when the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama.

Within this legislation, introduced by my colleague from Kentucky, Congressman HAL ROGERS, is a clause stating that continued Russian participation in the Group of Eight shall be conditioned on Russia respecting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by every other member nation of the G-8.

In the time since this legislation was signed into law, Russia has not changed course. Instead, it has increased its aggression in Ukraine and has undermined democracy in numerous nations. In response to Russia's continued flouting of international democratic standards, I introduced H. Res. 546 to reiterate longstanding bipartisan congressional sentiment that Russia's actions should have consequences on the international stage.

If we allow Russia to participate in future G-7 summits without meeting the previously set conditions, we are signaling that Russia can continue to act with impunity and that the United

States will not stand firm in the face of Russian aggression.

It is my hope that the House of Representatives can, once again, come together as we did in 2014 to condemn Russia's actions in Ukraine, reaffirm support for Russia's expulsion from the G-8, and stress that future participation must hinge on respecting the territorial integrity of other nations.

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 in strong support of H. Res. 546.

I want to thank Mr. Sires for authoring this very important resolution, which reiterates that Russia should not be permitted to rejoin the Group of Eight summits until Putin's flagrant aggression radically changes.

Since the Russian invasion in 2014, Ukraine has been embroiled in a battle for territorial sovereignty. For 6 years, Russia has illegally occupied the Crimean Peninsula and supported separatist fighting in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

For over a decade, Russia has also illegally occupied the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia, which constitute 20 percent of Georgia's territory.

Mr. Speaker, I visited Tbilisi within a week after Putin's invasion into South Ossetia when the thought was they might even go the rest of the way into Tbilisi, and I can say I saw firsthand the IDPs—the internally displaced persons—the refugees, the loss of life, and people who were wounded; and, again, it was all reminiscent of the bad old days of the Soviet Union now being replicated by Vladimir Putin.

Putin has violated fundamental principles of international law, and he has done so with impunity. He has refused to respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors and denied the standards of democratic societies.

These invasions and occupations have displaced thousands of ethnic Ukrainians and Georgians and resulted in severe human rights abuses against both populations. Moreover, Russia's meddling in the democratic elections of the United States and our allies throughout Europe have further demonstrated Putin's complete disrespect for the values and beliefs shared by other members of the Group of Seven.

This resolution condemns Russia's occupation of Crimea and other destabilization efforts in eastern Ukraine, reaffirms U.S. support for Ukraine's territory and sovereignty, and admonishes Putin's assaults on democratic processes around the world.

Most importantly, this legislation establishes that Russia should continue to be suspended from the Group of Seven until Putin adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from New

Jersey for authoring this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul), who is the ranking member.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 546.

Under President Putin's leadership, Russia has invaded and occupied parts of Ukraine and Georgia, assassinated political opponents at home and abroad, and enabled the corrupt regimes of Assad in Syria and Maduro in Venezuela.

Putin has also waged cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns against the United States and our allies, interfered in our elections, and spied off of our coasts with their submarine warfare capability.

All of these actions go against the fundamental principles of the Group of Seven and threaten democracies around the world.

As I have said many times over the years, Mr. Putin is not our friend. The United States and our allies cannot trust him to be a reliable partner as long as he continues to lead his country down a path of corruption, assassinations, and oppression.

As stated in this resolution, Russia should not be readmitted to the Group of Seven until Putin respects the principles shared by the other members, relinquishes his choke hold over Crimea, and ceases his global attacks on democratic institutions. Maintaining the integrity of the Group of Seven is vital to the group's success, and Russia cannot be allowed to bully its way back in.

I would like to thank Representative Sires for his hard work on this resolution, and my good friend, Representative Smith, for championing this resolution today. Under Putin's leadership, the world has become more deadly and more dangerous, and his people have fewer freedoms and greater poverty.

In closing, we need to stand up to dictators like Mr. Putin. I do think this is not, again, a Republican or a Democrat issue. Standing up against a hostile enemy, Mr. Putin and the Russian Federation, is an American issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan measure. I thank my colleague, Mr. Shirkus, for supporting it and my good friend from New Jersey, Congressman Smith.

Time and time again, Russia ignores the standards and norms of democratic societies and actively operates counter to American interests. If we do not stand firm against Russian aggression and allow them to participate in future G-7 summits, we will be rewarding Putin for his attacks on our country and our allies and that will damage our

partnerships and alliances around the world.

With this measure, Congress makes it clear that we do not support Russia's inclusion in the G-7 as he continues to attack us, our partners, and democratic institutions around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members would join me in supporting its passage, 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 Jersey (Mr. Sires) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 546.

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. Sires. 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.

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT AND OTHER AGREEMENTS TO ENSURE A LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. Sires. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 585) reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 585

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the main goal of the Good Friday Agreement was to bring an end to the violence on the island of Ireland and to ensure self-determination, peace, and reconciliation for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that has proven critical to the decades of relative peace that have followed;

Whereas an exit from the European Union by the United Kingdom that does not appropriately protect the Good Friday Agreement threatens to undermine progress that has been made in moving beyond the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the power-sharing agreement negotiated between the Government of Ireland, the Government of the United Kingdom, and parties in Northern Ireland in 1998 was a critical step toward negotiating lasting solutions to the issues described in the Good Friday Agreement and in other agreements that followed;

Whereas the collapse of the power-sharing institutions in 2017 has created additional difficulties and is serving as a roadblock to continued progress;

Whereas despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent