

KAINES was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 188, a resolution encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 189

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 189, a resolution condemning all forms of antisemitism.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 203, a resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HAS-SAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1438. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, along with my friend Senator ENZI, the ‘Breast Cancer Research Stamp Reauthorization Act.’

Breast cancer remains one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in women. One in eight women will receive a diagnosis during her lifetime—and more than 40,000 women will die from the disease this year.

The Breast Cancer Research Stamp was first issued in 1998 and has since raised almost \$90 million for research into new, innovative treatments for breast cancer.

A 2018 study that was partially funded by revenue from stamp sales found that most women diagnosed with a common early-stage breast cancer do not actually need chemotherapy as a part of their cancer treatment. Results from this study are expected to spare up to 70,000 U.S. patients a year from the cost and side effects associated with chemotherapy without it hurting their chances of beating the disease.

Think about it. Simply purchasing a stamp could help spare thousands of women the pain they may experience when undergoing chemotherapy and side effects that range from hair loss to long-term organ damage. Not to mention the expense, with one basic round

of chemo costing anywhere from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The stamp’s ability to fund critical research like this study helps us take big steps forward in treating breast cancer for only a few more cents over the standard price of sending a letter.

As we come back to work after Mother’s Day, I invite the Senate to pause and remember all the women who have faced a diagnosis of breast cancer, not knowing what the outcome would be. I applaud as well the family and friends who have tirelessly supported them.

The Breast Cancer Stamp currently costs 65 cents, 10 cents more than a traditional Forever stamp. The additional 10 cents helps support breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense’s Medical Research Program. Our bill would reauthorize the stamp for 8 more years through 2027.

For these women and their families, this stamp is as meaningful to them as it is impactful to how we combat the disease now and in the future.

I am honored to be joined by Senators BALDWIN, BARRASSO, CAPITO, CASEY, CRAMER, COLLINS, DAINES, DUCKWORTH, DURBIN, GRASSLEY, HAS-SAN, HIRONO, HYDE-SMITH, KLOBUCHAR, ROSEN, SCHATZ, SHAHEEN, STABENOW, and TESTER.

I am very grateful for supporters of this bill, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American College of Surgeons, Susan G. Komen, the American Association for Cancer Research, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and Are You Dense, Inc.

As we celebrate the mothers in our lives this week, I urge my colleagues to join us in taking meaningful action to improve women’s health.

Thank you Mr. President and I yield the floor.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 1442. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen school security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, as we pause this week to remember the 10 people who lost their lives and the 13 people who were wounded 1 year ago, we should reflect on what has changed but also on what still needs to be done to stop this epidemic of mass shootings and school shootings, in particular.

Last year I was very proud that Congress authorized nearly \$1 billion in school safety funding—legislation that I was a cosponsor of. That is nearly \$1 billion that schools can use to improve school safety, including hardening doors so that shooters can’t shoot through the school doors anymore, shrinking the number of entrances and exits, installing metal detectors, and hiring armed police officers to keep our kids safe. That was an important first step, but we need to do more.

That is why I am reintroducing this week two important bills. First, I am reintroducing legislation to authorize more funding for school safety and to enable greater targeting of the felons and fugitives who try to buy firearms illegally. If a felon or fugitive tries to purchase a firearm illegally, that felon or fugitive should be prosecuted and they should be put in Federal jail.

In 2013, my first year in the Senate, I introduced legislation with my friend Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa to create a gun crime task force at the Federal Department of Justice to ensure that Federal convictions are in the national database and to direct the Department of Justice to prosecute the felons and fugitives who try to illegally buy guns and to put them in jail before they can take the lives of more innocents. Sadly, cynically, Senate Democrats filibustered that legislation. They prevented it from passing into law by demanding a 60-vote threshold.

In light of the tragedies of Santa Fe, Parkland, and Highlands Ranch High School, just last week, I urge my colleagues to join me in making this commonsense bill law in this Congress. Let’s direct law enforcement resources to stop violent criminals before they commit more heinous murders.

I am also reintroducing the bipartisan School Security Enhancement Act with Democratic Senator DOUG JONES, which would allow local communities to utilize student support and academic enrichment grants to reinforce school safety infrastructure and technology. Installing metal detectors, bulletproof doors and windows, and establishing an efficient system for communicating important information to law enforcement and to parents are all important steps in improving school safety.

I hope we can join together and pass these bills so that our students are safer, and so we can do more to prevent future mass shootings.

What happened in Santa Fe a year ago was a tragedy. On the night of the shooting, there was a candlelight prayer vigil in the community at a public park in downtown Santa Fe. Even as you saw families grieving and in unspeakable agony, and their hearts breaking, you also saw people coming together. When I was at the vigil that night, as you wept and mourned with students and parents experiencing the ultimate agony, you saw at the same time students and parents in the community leaning on each other, holding each other, holding each other up, praying alongside each other, praying with each other, and giving thanks for the heroism and strength. I think that is the only way a community makes it out of a tragedy like that.

The last year has been an extremely difficult year for the Santa Fe families and the community. That morning is indelibly marked onto that community. At the same time, they have been able to lean on each other, to rely on each other, to support each other, and to lift each other up in prayer.

I want to conclude by saying to the families in Santa Fe: We are with you. We support you. We love you, and we are there for you.

To my colleagues in Congress, we need to unite together to make our schools safer, to prosecute felons and fugitives before they commit acts of murder, and to do everything to stop this horrific mass shooting epidemic. We need to do it now. End the partisan battles. Focus on the bad guys, and stop them before more lives and innocents are taken.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWYN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HAS-SAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. KING):

S. 1445. A bill to provide a coordinated regional response to manage effectively the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1445

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Central America Reform and Enforcement Act’’.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—ADVANCING REFORMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO ADDRESS THE FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Capacity of Central American Governments To Protect and Provide for Their Own People

Sec. 111. United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.

Sec. 112. Authorization of appropriations for United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.

Sec. 113. Strengthening the rule of law and combating corruption.

Sec. 114. Combating criminal violence and improving citizen security.

Sec. 115. Tackling extreme poverty and advancing economic development.

Subtitle B—Conditions, Limitations, and Certifications on United States Assistance

Sec. 121. Assistance funding available without condition.

Sec. 122. Conditions on assistance related to combating, smuggling, and providing for screening and safety of migrants.

Sec. 123. Conditions on assistance related to progress on specific issues.

Sec. 124. Additional limitations.

Sec. 125. Restrictions on reprogramming.

Subtitle C—Effectively Coordinating United States Engagement in Central America

Sec. 131. United States Coordinator for Engagement in Central America.

Subtitle D—United States Leadership for Engaging International Donors and Partners

Sec. 141. Requirement for strategy to secure support of international donors and partners.

**TITLE II—CRACKING DOWN ON CRIMINAL GANGS, CARTELS, AND COMPLICIT OFFICIALS**

Subtitle A—Strengthening Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies To Target Smugglers and Traffickers

Sec. 211. Enhanced international cooperation to combat human smuggling and trafficking.

Sec. 212. Enhanced investigation and prosecution of human smuggling and trafficking.

Sec. 213. Information campaign on dangers of irregular migration.

Subtitle B—Strengthening the Ability of the United States Government To Crack Down on Smugglers, Traffickers, and Drug Cartels

Sec. 221. Enhanced penalties for organized smuggling schemes.

Sec. 222. Expanding financial sanctions on narcotics trafficking and money laundering.

Sec. 223. Support for FBI transnational anti-gang task forces for countering criminal gangs.

Sec. 224. Sense of Congress regarding the expansion of targeted sanctions related to corruption and human rights abuses.

Subtitle C—Creating New Penalties for Hindering Immigration, Border, and Customs Controls

Sec. 231. Hindering immigration, border, and customs controls.

**TITLE III—MINIMIZING BORDER CROSSINGS BY EXPANDING PROCESSING OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN-COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION AND BY STRENGTHENING REPATRIATION INITIATIVES**

Subtitle A—Providing Alternative Safe Havens in Mexico and the Region

Sec. 311. Strengthening internal asylum systems in Mexico and other countries.

Subtitle B—Expanding Refugee Processing in Mexico and Central America for Third Country Resettlement

Sec. 321. Expanding refugee processing in Mexico and Central America for third country resettlement.

Subtitle C—Establishing Legal Channels to the United States

Sec. 331. Program to adjust the status of certain vulnerable refugees from Central America.

**TITLE IV—MONITORING AND SUPPORTING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PROCESSING AT THE BORDER**

Sec. 401. Definitions; authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 402. Family reunification.

Sec. 403. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Government’s Ability To Oversee the Safety and Well-being of Children and Support Children Forcibly Separated From Their Families

Sec. 411. Health care in shelters for unaccompanied alien children.

Sec. 412. Services to unaccompanied alien children after placement.

Sec. 413. Background checks to ensure the safe placement of unaccompanied alien children.

Sec. 414. Responsibility of sponsor for immigration court compliance and child well-being.

Sec. 415. Monitoring unaccompanied alien children.

Subtitle B—Funding to States and School Districts; Supporting Education and Safety

Sec. 421. Funding to States to conduct State criminal checks and child abuse and neglect checks.

Sec. 422. Unaccompanied alien children in schools.

**TITLE V—ENSURING ORDERLY AND HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEEKING PROTECTION**

Subtitle A—Providing a Fair and Efficient Legal Process for Children and Vulnerable Families Seeking Asylum

Sec. 511. Court appearance compliance and legal orientation.

Sec. 512. Fair day in court for kids.

Sec. 513. Access to counsel and legal orientation at detention facilities.

Sec. 514. Report on access to counsel.

Sec. 515. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Reducing Significant Delays in Immigration Court

Sec. 521. Eliminate immigration court backlogs.

Sec. 522. Improved training for immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Sec. 523. New technology to improve court efficiency.

Subtitle C—Reducing the Likelihood of Repeated Migration to the United States

Sec. 531. Establishing reintegration and monitoring services for repatriating children.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 2008, incidents of murder, other violent crime, and corruption perpetrated by criminal networks, armed gangs and groups, and illicit trafficking organizations have remained at alarming levels in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(2) In 2017, El Salvador and Honduras—

(A) continued to be among the most violent countries in Latin America and the world, with 60 and 42 murders for every 100,000 people, respectively; and

(B) were characterized by a high prevalence of gang-related violence and crimes involving sexual and gender-based violence.

(3) El Salvador and Honduras are both among the top 3 countries in the world with the highest child homicide rates, with more than 22 and 32 deaths per 100,000 children respectively, according to the nongovernmental organization Save the Children.

(4) A November 2017 report by the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women stated that femicide “is taking on a devastating magnitude and trend in Central America, where 2 in every 3 women murdered, are killed because of their gender.”.

(5) Since 2014, elevated numbers of unaccompanied minors, women, and other vulnerable individuals have fled violence in Central America’s Northern Triangle and left for the United States in search of protection.

(6) Unaccompanied minors emigrating from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

city violence, forced gang recruitment, extortion, poverty, and lack of opportunity as reasons for leaving their home countries.

(7) Challenges to the rule of law in the Northern Triangle continue to be exacerbated by high levels of impunity related to murders and violent crime. In 2015, approximately 95 percent of murders taking place in Honduras and El Salvador remained unresolved.

(8) The presence of major drug trafficking organizations in the Northern Triangle contributes to violence, corruption, and criminality. According to the Department of State's 2017 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras continue to be transit countries for illicit drugs originating from countries in South America that are destined for the United States.

(9) In June 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights found that in El Salvador, a pattern of behavior among security personnel and weak institutional responses may have resulted in extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force, with official figures indicating an alarming increase in the number of persons (alleged gang-members) who have been killed by security personnel.

(10) Widespread public sector corruption in the Northern Triangle undermines economic and social development and directly affects regional political stability.

(11) Human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, social leaders, and LGBT activists in the Northern Triangle face dire conditions, as evidenced by—

(A) the March 2016 murder of the prominent Honduran environmental activist, Berta Cáceres; and

(B) the ongoing targeted killing of civil society leaders in all 3 countries in the Northern Triangle.

(12) The Northern Triangle struggles with high levels of economic insecurity. In 2016, 60.9 percent of Hondurans and 38 percent of Salvadorans lived below the poverty line. In 2014, 59.3 percent of Guatemalans lived below the poverty line.

(13) Weak investment climates, low levels of tax collection, and low levels of educational opportunity are barriers to inclusive economic growth and social development in the Northern Triangle.

(14) In January 2018 and May 2018, the Trump Administration announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status designations for Honduras and El Salvador, respectively, which would affect more than 500,000 individuals and their United States citizen children who may have to return to dangerous conditions in those countries.

(15) In a November 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security, then Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned that as a result of ending Temporary Protected Status, the Governments of El Salvador and Honduras "may take retaliatory actions counter to our long-standing national security and economic interests like withdrawing their counternarcotics and anti-gang cooperation with the United States, reducing their willingness to accept the return of their deported citizens, or refraining from efforts to control illegal migration."

### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States support is necessary to address irregular migration by addressing the violence and humanitarian crisis in the Northern Triangle, which has resulted in the elevated numbers of Central American unaccompanied children, women, and other refugees and migrants arriving at the Southwestern border of the United States;

(2) the violence and humanitarian crisis is linked to the severe challenges posed by—

(A) high rates of homicide, sexual and gender-based violence, and violent crime perpetrated by armed criminal actors, including drug trafficking organizations and criminal gangs, such as the MS-13 and 18th Street gangs;

(B) endemic corruption carried out by organized networks and the weak rule of law, including the limited institutional capacity of national police forces, public prosecutors, and court systems; and

(C) the limited capabilities and lack of political will on the part of Northern Triangle governments to establish the rule of law, guarantee security, and ensure the well-being of their citizens;

(3) the United States must work with international partners—

(A) to address the complicated conditions in the Northern Triangle that contribute to the violence and humanitarian crisis; and

(B) to guarantee protections for vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, fleeing violence in the region;

(4) the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle, which was developed by the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, with the technical assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank, represents a comprehensive approach to address the complex situation in the Northern Triangle;

(5) the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, as first developed by President Obama and Vice President Biden, provides important support for the Alliance for Prosperity and other United States national security priorities, including rule of law and anti-corruption initiatives;

(6) President Trump's decision to reduce United States foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras from funding levels set in fiscal years 2017 and 2018—

(A) poses a serious risk to United States national security; and

(B) will damage the efforts of the United States to address the underlying conditions causing citizens of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to flee their homelands and migrate to the United States;

(7) the Trump Administration's proposed cuts in United States foreign assistance for Central America for fiscal year 2020, if implemented, would undermine the United States ability to work with the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to address critical United States national security priorities and the factors driving migration to the United States;

(8) the Trump Administration must reverse its decision to terminate the Temporary Protected Status designations for El Salvador and Honduras in order to prevent negative consequences to United States foreign policy objectives;

(9) the United States should partner with the Government of Mexico—

(A) to strengthen Mexico's internal asylum system; and

(B) ensure that Mexico upholds international and humanitarian standards;

(10) combating corruption in the Northern Triangle must remain a critical priority and the United States must continue its public and financial support for the United Nation's Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the Organization of American States' Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) as part of this effort;

(11) the Government of Guatemala should reverse its efforts—

(A) to terminate CICIG's mandate; and

(B) to undermine the effectiveness of CICIG's ongoing operations, including prohibiting the current CICIG Commissioner from entering the country; and

(12) it is imperative for the United States to implement a multi-year strategy and sustain a long-term commitment to addressing the underlying factors causing Central Americans to flee their countries by strengthening citizen security, the rule of law, democratic governance, the protection of human rights, and inclusive economic growth in the Northern Triangle.

### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term "intelligence community" has the meaning given the term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(2) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The term "Northern Triangle" means El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(3) PLACEMENT.—The term "placement" means the placement of an unaccompanied alien child with a sponsor.

(4) PLAN.—The term "Plan" means the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle.

(5) SPONSOR.—The term "sponsor" means a sponsor referred to in section 462(b)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(4)).

(6) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term "unaccompanied alien child" has the meaning given the term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

### TITLE I—ADVANCING REFORMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO ADDRESS THE FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION

#### Subtitle A—Strengthening the Capacity of Central American Governments To Protect and Provide for Their Own People

##### SEC. 111. UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a 5-year, interagency strategy, titled "the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America", to advance reforms in Central American countries that address the factors driving migration.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under subsection (a) shall include efforts to—

(1) strengthen the rule of law, improve access to justice, and bolster the effectiveness and independence of judicial systems and public prosecutors' offices, and the effectiveness of civilian police forces;

(2) combat corruption and improve public sector transparency;

(3) confront and counter the violence and crime perpetrated by armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and organized crime;

(4) disrupt money laundering operations and the illicit financial operations of criminal networks, armed gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and human smugglers;

(5) strengthen democratic governance and promote greater respect for internationally recognized human rights, labor rights, fundamental freedoms, and the media, including through the protection of human rights and environmental defenders, other civil society activists, and journalists;

(6) enhance the capability of Central American governments to protect and provide for vulnerable and at-risk populations;

(7) address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality;

(8) address the constraints to inclusive economic growth in Central America;

(9) prevent and respond to endemic levels of sexual and gender-based violence; and

(10) enhance accountability for government officials, including security force personnel, credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights or other crimes.

(c) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In formulating the strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall—

(1) coordinate with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; and

(2) consult with the Director of National Intelligence.

(d) SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN EFFORTS.—To the degree feasible, the strategy under subsection (a) shall support or complement efforts being carried out by the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras under the Plan, in coordination with the Inter-American Development Bank and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

(e) PRIORITIZATION.—The strategy under subsection (a) shall prioritize programs and initiatives to address the key factors in Central American countries that contribute to the flight of unaccompanied alien children and other individuals to the United States.

**SEC. 112. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.**

There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to carry out the strategy described in section 111.

**SEC. 113. STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND COMBATING CORRUPTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In advancing the strategy described in section 111, of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$550,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to strengthen the rule of law, combat corruption, consolidate democratic governance, and defend human rights.

(b) ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Activities described in this section include—

(1) strengthening the rule of law in Central American countries by providing support for—

(A) the Office of the Attorney General, public prosecutors, judges, and courts in each such country, including the enhancement of their forensics capabilities and services;

(B) reforms leading to independent, merit-based, selection processes for judges and prosecutors, independent internal controls, and relevant ethics and professional training, including training on sexual and gender-based violence;

(C) the improvement of victim and witness protection and access to justice; and

(D) the reform and improvement of prison facilities and management;

(2) combating corruption by providing support for—

(A) inspectors general and oversight institutions, including relevant training for inspectors and auditors;

(B) international commissions against impunity, including the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala and the Support Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras;

(C) civil society watchdogs conducting oversight of executive branch officials and functions, police and security forces, and judicial officials and public prosecutors; and

(D) the enhancement of freedom of information mechanisms;

(3) consolidating democratic governance by providing support for—

(A) the reform of civil services, related training programs, and relevant career laws and processes that lead to independent, merit-based, selection processes;

(B) national legislatures and their capacity to conduct oversight of executive branch functions;

(C) the reform and strengthening of political party and campaign finance laws and electoral tribunals; and

(D) local governments and their capacity to provide critical safety, education, health, and sanitation services to citizens; and

(4) defending human rights by providing support for—

(A) human rights ombudsman offices;

(B) government protection programs that provide physical protection to human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, and civil society activists at risk;

(C) civil society organizations that promote and defend human rights, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, labor rights, environmental protection, and LGBT rights; and

(D) civil society organizations that address sexual, domestic, and inter-partner violence against women and protect victims of such violence.

**SEC. 114. COMBATING CRIMINAL VIOLENCE AND IMPROVING CITIZEN SECURITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In advancing the strategy described in section 111, of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$550,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to counter the violence and crime perpetrated by armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and human smugglers.

(b) ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Activities described in this section include—

(1) professionalizing civilian police forces by providing support for—

(A) the reform of personnel recruitment, vetting and dismissal processes, including the enhancement of polygraph capability for use in such processes;

(B) inspectors general and oversight offices, including relevant training for inspectors and auditors, and independent oversight mechanisms, as appropriate;

(C) community policing policies and programs;

(D) the establishment of special vetted units;

(E) training and the development of protocols regarding the appropriate use of force and human rights;

(F) training on civilian intelligence collection (including safeguards for privacy and basic civil liberties), investigative techniques, forensic analysis, and evidence preservation;

(G) training on the management of complex, multi-actor criminal cases; and

(H) equipment, such as nonintrusive inspection equipment;

(2) countering illicit trafficking by providing assistance to the civilian law enforcement and armed forces of Central American countries, including support for—

(A) the establishment of special vetted units;

(B) the enhancement of intelligence collection capacity (including safeguards for privacy and basic civil liberties);

(C) the reform of personnel recruitment, vetting, and dismissal processes, including the enhancement of polygraph capability for use in such processes; and

(D) port, airport, and border security systems, including—

(i) computer infrastructure and data management systems;

(ii) secure communications technologies;

(iii) nonintrusive inspection equipment;

(iv) radar and aerial surveillance equipment;

(v) canine units; and

(vi) training on the equipment, technologies, and systems listed in clauses (i) through (v);

(3) disrupting illicit financial networks, including by providing support for—

(A) finance ministries, including the enhancement of the capacity to use financial sanctions to block the assets of individuals and organizations involved in money laundering and the financing of armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, human smugglers, and organized crime;

(B) financial intelligence units, including the establishment and enhancement of anti-money laundering programs; and

(C) the reform of bank secrecy laws; and

(4) improving crime prevention by providing support for—

(A) educational initiatives to reduce sexual and gender-based violence;

(B) the enhancement of police and judicial capacity to identify, investigate, and prosecute sexual and gender-based violence;

(C) the enhancement of programs for at-risk and criminal-involved youth, including the improvement of community centers throughout El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and

(D) alternative livelihood programs.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) operational technology transferred to governments in Central America for intelligence or law enforcement purposes should be used solely for the purposes for which the technology was intended;

(2) the United States should take all necessary steps to ensure that the use of operation technology described in paragraph (1) is consistent with United States law, including protections of freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom of association; and

(3) the assistance to Central American armed forces described in subsection (c)(2) should be limited to assistance that relates to—

(A) the armed forces activities to combat illicit maritime and riverine trafficking; and

(B) illicit trafficking occurring at national borders.

**SEC. 115. TACKLING EXTREME POVERTY AND ADVANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$400,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to improve economic development and the underlying causes of poverty.

(b) ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Activities described in this section include—

(1) strengthening human capital, including by providing support for—

(A) workforce development and entrepreneurship training programs that are driven by market demand, specifically programs that prioritize women, at-risk youth, and minorities;

(B) improving early-grade literacy and the improvement of primary and secondary school curricula;

(C) relevant professional training for teachers and educational administrators; and

(D) educational policy reform and improvement of education sector budgeting;

(2) enhancing economic competitiveness and investment climate by providing support for—

(A) small business development centers and programs that strengthen supply chain integration;

(B) trade facilitation and customs harmonization programs;

(C) reducing energy costs through investments in clean technologies and the reform of energy policies and regulations;

(D) the improvement of protections for investors, including dispute resolution and arbitration mechanisms; and

(E) the improvement of labor and environmental standards, in accordance with the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement;

(3) strengthening food security, including by providing support for—

(A) small-scale agriculture, including—

(i) technical training;

(ii) initiatives that facilitate access to credit; and

(iii) policies and programs that incentivize government agencies and private institutions to buy from local producers;

(B) agricultural value chain development for farming communities;

(C) nutrition programs to reduce childhood stunting rates; and

(D) investment in scientific research on climate change and climate resiliency; and

(4) improving the state of fiscal and financial affairs, including by providing support for—

(A) domestic revenue generation, including programs to improve tax administration, collection, and enforcement;

(B) strengthening public sector financial management, including strategic budgeting and expenditure tracking; and

(C) reform of customs and procurement policies and processes.

#### **Subtitle B—Conditions, Limitations, and Certifications on United States Assistance**

##### **SEC. 121. ASSISTANCE FUNDING AVAILABLE WITHOUT CONDITION.**

The Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, may obligate up to 25 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to carry out the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.

##### **SEC. 122. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE RELATED TO COMBATING, SMUGGLING, AND PROVIDING FOR SCREENING AND SAFETY OF MIGRANTS.**

(a) **NOTIFICATION AND COOPERATION.**—In addition to the amounts authorized to be made available under sections 121 and 123, 25 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for assistance for the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras may only be made available after the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, consults with, and subsequently certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that such governments are taking effective steps, in addition to steps taken during previous years, to—

(1) combat human smuggling and trafficking, including investigating, prosecuting, and increasing penalties for individuals responsible for such crimes;

(2) improve border security and border screening to detect and deter illicit smuggling and trafficking, while respecting the rights of individuals fleeing violence and seeking humanitarian protection asylum, in accordance with international law;

(3) cooperate with United States Government agencies and other governments in the region to facilitate the safe and timely repatriation of migrants who do not qualify for refugee or other protected status, in accordance with international law;

(4) improve reintegration services, in open partnership with civil society organizations, for repatriated migrants in a manner that ensures the safety and well-being of the individual and reduces the likelihood of repeated migration to the United States; and

(5) cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to improve protections for, and the processing of, vulnerable populations, particularly women and children fleeing violence.

##### **SEC. 123. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE RELATED TO PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.**

(a) **EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.**—In addition to the amounts authorized to be obligated under sections 121 and 122, 50 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for assistance for the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras may only be made available after the Secretary consults with, and subsequently certifies and reports to, the appropriate congressional committees that such governments are taking effective steps in their respective countries, in addition to steps taken during the previous calendar year, to—

(1) combat corruption, including investigating and prosecuting government officials, military personnel, and civilian police officers credibly alleged to be corrupt;

(2) implement reforms and strengthen the rule of law, including increasing the capacity and independence of the judiciary and public prosecutors;

(3) counter the activities of armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, and organized crime;

(4) establish and implement a plan to create a professional, accountable civilian police force and curtail the role of the military in internal policing;

(5) investigate and prosecute, through the civilian justice system, military and police personnel who are credibly alleged to have violated human rights, and to ensure that the military and the police are cooperating in such cases;

(6) counter and prevent sexual and gender-based violence;

(7) cooperate, as appropriate, with international human rights entities and international commissions against impunity, including the United Nation's Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the Organization of American States' Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), and any other similar entities that may be established;

(8) implement electoral and political reforms, including reforms related to improving the transparency of financing political campaigns and political parties;

(9) protect the right of political opposition parties, journalists, trade unionists, human rights defenders, and other civil society activists to operate without interference;

(10) increase government revenues, including by enhancing tax collection, strengthening customs agencies, and reforming procurement processes;

(11) implement reforms to strengthen educational systems, vocational training programs, and programs for at-risk youth;

(12) resolve commercial disputes, including the confiscation of real property, between United States entities and the respective governments; and

(13) implement a policy by which local communities, civil society organizations (including indigenous and marginalized groups), and local governments are consulted in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the activities of the Plan that affect such communities, organizations, or governments.

(b) **ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.**—The Secretary of State may not certify that the Government of Guatemala is taking effective steps to address the issues listed in subsection (a) until after the Government of Guatemala—

(1) extends the mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) beyond 2019; and

(2) permits the CICIG Commissioner and CICIG staff to carry out their work with government obstruction.

(c) **EXCEPTION.**—The certification and reporting requirements under subsection (a) and section 122(a) shall not apply to the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 for assistance to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala and the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras.

##### **SEC. 124. ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.**

(a) **DEPORTATIONS AND REPATRIATIONS.**—None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this title may be used or transferred to any other Federal agency to assist in the removal or repatriation of any individual from a third country to his or her country of origin or to another country.

(b) **FUND TRANSFERS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State may not transfer amounts appropriated for the Department of State to any account managed by the Department of Homeland Security for the purpose of assisting in the deportation or repatriation of any foreign person from a third country to his or her country of origin or to another country, absent a specific authorization from Congress for such transfer.

##### **SEC. 125. RESTRICTIONS ON REPROGRAMMING.**

(a) **UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 may not be reprogrammed for any activities other than those authorized under this title.

(b) **BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS.**—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development may not reprogram amounts made available for assistance for El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras under—

(1) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2019 (division F of Public Law 116–6);

(2) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018 (division K of Public Law 115–31);

(3) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2017 (division J of Public Law 115–31); or

(4) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114–113).

#### **Subtitle C—Effectively Coordinating United States Engagement in Central America**

##### **SEC. 131. UNITED STATES COORDINATOR FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.**

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the President shall designate a senior official to coordinate all of the Federal Government's efforts, including coordination with international partners—

(1) to strengthen citizen security, the rule of law, and economic prosperity in Central America; and

(2) to protect vulnerable populations in the region.

(b) SUPERVISION.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall report directly to the President.

(c) DUTIES.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall coordinate all of the efforts, activities, and programs related to United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, including—

(1) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Justice (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation), the Department of Homeland Security, the intelligence community, and international partners regarding United States efforts to dismantle and disrupt armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, and organized crime responsible for high levels of violence, extortion, and corruption in Central America;

(2) coordinating with the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of violent criminal gangs and transnational criminal organizations on vulnerable Central American populations, including women and children;

(3) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and international partners regarding United States efforts to counter human smugglers illegally transporting Central American migrants to the United States;

(4) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to increase protections for vulnerable Central American populations, improve refugee processing, and strengthen asylum and migration systems throughout the region;

(5) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice (including the Drug Enforcement Administration), the Department of the Treasury, the intelligence community, and international partners regarding United States efforts to combat illicit narcotics traffickers, interdict transshipments of illicit narcotics, and disrupt the financing of the illicit narcotics trade;

(6) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, the intelligence community, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to combat corruption, money laundering, and illicit financial networks;

(7) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to strengthen the rule of law, democratic governance, and human rights protections; and

(8) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, the United States Agency for International Development, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Trade and Development Agency, the Department of Labor, and international partners, including the Inter-American Development Bank, to strengthen the foundation for inclusive economic growth and improve food security, in-

vestment climate, and protections for labor rights.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall consult with Congress, multilateral organizations and institutions, foreign governments, and domestic and international civil society organizations.

**Subtitle D—United States Leadership for Engaging International Donors and Partners**

**SEC. 141. REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY TO SECURE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS AND PARTNERS.**

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a 3-year strategy to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) describes how the United States will secure support from international donors and regional partners (including Colombia and Mexico) for the implementation of the Plan;

(2) identifies governments that are willing to provide financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the Plan and a description of such assistance; and

(3) identifies the financial and technical assistance to be provided by multilateral institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Andean Development Corporation—Development Bank of Latin America, and the Organization of American States, and a description of such assistance.

(c) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, as appropriate, shall—

(1) carry out diplomatic engagement to secure contributions of financial and technical assistance from international donors and partners in support of the Plan; and

(2) take all necessary steps to ensure effective cooperation among international donors and partners supporting the Plan.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after submitting the strategy under subsection (b), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) the progress made in implementing the strategy; and

(2) the financial and technical assistance provided by international donors and partners, including the multilateral institutions listed in subsection (b)(3).

(e) BRIEFINGS.—Upon a request from 1 of the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to such committee that describes the progress made in implementing the strategy submitted under subsection (b).

**TITLE II—CRACKING DOWN ON CRIMINAL GANGS, CARTELS, AND COMPLICIT OFFICIALS**

**Subtitle A—Strengthening Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies To Target Smugglers and Traffickers**

**SEC. 211. ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.**

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall expand partnership efforts with law en-

forcement entities in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico seeking to combat human smuggling and trafficking in those countries, including—

(1) the creation or expansion of transnational criminal investigative units to identify, disrupt, and prosecute human smuggling and trafficking operations;

(2) participation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Justice in the Bilateral Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative with their Mexican law enforcement counterparts; and

(3) advanced training programs for investigators and prosecutors from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

**SEC. 212. ENHANCED INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall expand collaborative programs aimed at investigating and prosecuting human smugglers and traffickers targeting Central American children and families and operating at the southwestern border of the United States, including the continuation and expansion of anti-trafficking coordination teams.

(b) HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall increase the resources available to Homeland Security Investigations to facilitate the expansion of its smuggling and trafficking investigations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsections (a) and (b).

**SEC. 213. INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON DANGERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall design and implement public information campaigns in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—

(1) to disseminate information about the dangers of travel across Mexico to the United States; and

(2) to combat misinformation about United States immigration law or policy; and

(3) to provide accurate information about the right to seek asylum.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The information campaigns implemented pursuant to subsection (a) shall, to the greatest extent possible—

(1) be targeted at populations and localities with high migration rates;

(2) be in local languages;

(3) employ a variety of communications media; and

(4) be developed in consultation with program officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and other government, nonprofit, or academic entities in close contact with migrant populations from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including repatriated migrants.

**Subtitle B—Strengthening the Ability of the United States Government To Crack Down on Smugglers, Traffickers, and Drug Cartels**

**SEC. 221. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR ORGANIZED SMUGGLING SCHEMES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 274(a)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) in the case of a violation of subparagraph (A)(i) during and in relation to which the person, while acting for profit or other financial gain, knowingly directs or participates in an effort or scheme to assist or

cause 10 or more persons (other than a parent, spouse, sibling, or child of the offender) to enter or to attempt to enter the United States at the same time at a place other than a designated port of entry or place other than designated by the Secretary, be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both;”;

(3) in clause (iv), as redesignated, by inserting “commits or attempts to commit sexual assault of,” after “section 1365 of title 18, United States Code) to.”;

(b) BULK CASH SMUGGLING.—Section 5332(b)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “TERM OF IMPRISONMENT” and inserting “IN GENERAL”; and

(2) by inserting “, fined under title 18, or both” after “5 years”.

**SEC. 222. EXPANDING FINANCIAL SANCTIONS ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING.**

(a) FINANCIAL SANCTIONS EXPANSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence shall expand investigations, intelligence collection, and analysis pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to increase the identification and application of sanctions against—

(A) significant foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations and networks; and

(B) foreign persons who provide material, financial, or technological support to such traffickers, organizations, and networks.

(2) TARGETS.—The activities described in paragraph (1) shall specifically target foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations and networks, and the foreign persons who provide material, financial, or technological support to such traffickers, organizations, and networks that are present and operating in Central America.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

**SEC. 223. SUPPORT FOR FBI TRANSNATIONAL ANTI-GANG TASK FORCES FOR COUNTERING CRIMINAL GANGS.**

(a) TASK FORCE EXPANSION.—The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall expand the efforts of the Transnational Anti-Gang Task Forces in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including by—

(1) expanding transnational criminal investigations focused on criminal gangs in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, such as MS-13 and 18th Street;

(2) expanding training and partnership efforts with Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran law enforcement entities in order to disrupt and dismantle criminal gangs, both internationally and in their respective countries;

(3) establishing or expanding special vetted investigative units; and

(4) collecting and disseminating intelligence to support related United States-based investigations.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated, to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

**SEC. 224. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE EXPANSION OF TARGETED SANCTIONS RELATED TO CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should intensify targeting of and impose sanctions regularly on a range

of foreign persons from or in Central America determined to be responsible for human rights abuses, corruption-related misconduct, and other misconduct identified pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note);

(2) the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and other United States intelligence agencies, as appropriate, should expand intelligence collection and analysis in support of the efforts described in paragraph (1); and

(3) the efforts described in paragraph (1) should specifically target foreign persons, including foreign government officials, complicit in acts that weaken, run counter to, or undermine the strategy described in section 111.

**Subtitle C—Creating New Penalties for Hindering Immigration, Border, and Customs Controls**

**SEC. 231. HINDERING IMMIGRATION, BORDER, AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS.**

(a) IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—The Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 274D the following:

**“SEC. 274E. HINDERING IMMIGRATION, BORDER, AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS.**

“(a) ILLICIT SPOTTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly surveil, track, monitor, or transmit the location, movement, or activities of any officer or employee of a Federal, State, or tribal law enforcement agency—

“(A) with the intent to gain financially; and

“(B) in furtherance of any violation of the immigration laws, the customs and trade laws of the United States (as defined in section 2 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125)), any other Federal law relating to transporting controlled substances, agriculture, or monetary instruments into the United States, or any Federal law relating to border controls measures of the United States.

“(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

“(b) DESTRUCTION OF UNITED STATES BORDER CONTROLS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly and without lawful authorization—

“(A) destroy or significantly damage any fence, barrier, sensor, camera, or other physical or electronic device deployed by the Federal Government to control an international border of, or a port of entry to, the United States; or

“(B) otherwise seek to construct, excavate, or make any structure intended to defeat, circumvent or evade such a fence, barrier, sensor camera, or other physical or electronic device deployed by the Federal Government to control an international border of, or a port of entry to, the United States.

“(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 274D the following:

“Sec. 274E. Hindering immigration, border, and customs controls.”.

**TITLE III—MINIMIZING BORDER CROSSINGS BY EXPANDING PROCESSING OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN-COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION AND BY STRENGTHENING REPATRIATION INITIATIVES**

**Subtitle A—Providing Alternative Safe Havens in Mexico and the Region**

**SEC. 311. STRENGTHENING INTERNAL ASYLUM SYSTEMS IN MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall work with international partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to support and provide technical assistance to strengthen the domestic capacity of Mexico and other countries in the region to provide asylum to eligible children and families, in accordance with international law and best practices, by—

(1) establishing and expanding temporary and long-term in-country reception centers and shelter capacity to meet the humanitarian needs of those seeking asylum or other forms of international protection;

(2) improving the asylum registration system to ensure that all individuals seeking asylum or other humanitarian protection—

(A) are provided with adequate information about their rights, including their right to seek protection;

(B) are properly screened for security, including biographic and biometric capture;

(C) receive due process and meaningful access to existing legal protections; and

(D) receive proper documents in order to prevent fraud and ensure freedom of movement and access to basic social services;

(3) creating or expanding a corps of trained asylum officers capable of evaluating and deciding individual asylum claims consistent with international law and obligations; and

(4) developing the capacity to conduct best interest determinations for unaccompanied alien children to ensure that their needs are properly met, which may include family reunification or resettlement in the United States or another country based on international protection needs and the best interests of the child.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit a report that describes the plans of the Secretary of State to assist in developing the asylum processing capabilities described in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(6) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(8) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

**Subtitle B—Expanding Refugee Processing in Mexico and Central America for Third Country Resettlement****SEC. 321. EXPANDING REFUGEE PROCESSING IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall coordinate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support and provide technical assistance to the Government of Mexico and the governments of other countries in the region to increase access to global resettlement for eligible children and families with protection needs, in accordance with international law and best practices, by—

(1) establishing and expanding in-country refugee reception centers to meet the humanitarian needs of those seeking international protection;

(2) improving the refugee registration system to ensure that all refugees—

(A) are provided with adequate information about their rights, including their right to seek protection;

(B) are properly screened for security, including biographic and biometric capture;

(C) receive due process and meaningful access to existing legal protections; and

(D) receive proper documents in order to prevent fraud and ensure freedom of movement and access to basic social services;

(3) creating or expanding a corps of trained refugee officers capable of evaluating and deciding individual claims for protection, consistent with international law and obligations; and

(4) developing the capacity to conduct best interest determinations for unaccompanied alien children to ensure that—

(A) such children with international protection needs are properly registered; and

(B) their needs are properly met, which may include family reunification or resettlement in the United States or another country based on international protection needs and the best interests of the child.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit a report to the committees listed in section 311(b) that describes the plans of the Secretary of State to assist in developing the refugee processing capabilities described in subsection (a).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the conditions in Mexico, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, do not meet the necessary threshold for the United States Government to sign a safe third country agreement with the Government of Mexico; and

(2) individuals of any nationality, who enter the United States from Mexico and request humanitarian protection, such as asylum, in the United States—

(A) are not subject to section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(2)(C)); and

(B) cannot be returned to Mexico while their request for humanitarian protection is pending.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

**Subtitle C—Establishing Legal Channels to the United States****SEC. 331. PROGRAM TO ADJUST THE STATUS OF CERTAIN VULNERABLE REFUGEES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) REFUGEE STATUS.—The term “refugee status” has the meaning given the term in

section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)), except that the alien may apply inside his or her country of nationality if there is a designated application processing center present.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a refugee processing program for nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to respond to country conditions and the growing need to provide an alternative to the dangerous journey to the United States of America.

(c) ADMISSION OF ELIGIBLE CENTRAL AMERICAN ALIENS AS REFUGEES.—Notwithstanding the numerical limitations set forth in sections 201, 202, and 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1157), the Secretary shall adjust the status of an alien who is a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to that of an alien admitted as a refugee if the alien—

(1) applies for such refugee status at a Designated Application Processing Center (as defined in subsection (e)); and

(2) is eligible under subsection (d).

(d) CENTRAL AMERICANS ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Admission as a refugee or adjustment of status to that of a refugee shall be available to any alien, or members of the alien’s family, if—

(A) the alien is a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras;

(B) the alien otherwise meets the definition of a refugee, except that the alien may apply from inside his or her country of nationality;

(C)(i) the alien presents himself or herself at a Designated Application Processing Center for consideration of refugee status under this section; or

(ii) in the case of an alien who is a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the alien presents an application for the alien; and

(D) the alien passes all relevant medical, national security, and background checks.

(2) EFFECT OF DENIAL OF REFUGEE STATUS.—The denial of refugee status under the Central American Minors Program—

(A) shall not be held determinative with respect to an adjudication under this section; and

(B) shall not prejudice the results of an adjudication under this section.

(e) DESIGNATED APPLICATION PROCESSING CENTERS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a minimum of 4 Designated Application Processing Centers in 4 different physical locations in the countries referred to in paragraph (2), with the consent of the host country, if necessary.

(2) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that at least 1 Designated Application Processing Center is established in—

(A) El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico; and

(B) any other country in Central America selected by the Secretary of State.

(3) APPLICATION FOR REFUGEE STATUS.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that any alien who is physically present at a Designated Application Processing Center is permitted—

(A) to apply for refugee status under this section;

(B) to include his or her family in the application for refugee status, regardless of such alien’s status; and

(C) if the alien applying for refugee status is an unaccompanied minor, to have legal counsel present at all interviews.

(4) ADJUDICATION.—Applications submitted at a Designated Application Processing Center under this section shall be adjudicated by refugee officers from the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(5) ADJUDICATION DEADLINES.—

(A) FIRST YEAR.—Applications submitted under this section during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be adjudicated not later than 1 year after submission.

(B) SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.—Applications submitted under this section after the period described in subparagraph (A) shall be adjudicated not later than 6 months after submission.

(F) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsections (c)(1) and (d)(1)(C) shall be waived by the Secretary if the alien, or his or her family—

(1) is a national of El Salvador or Honduras;

(2) was in temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) on the date on which his or her country of nationality’s designation under subsection (b) of such section was terminated;

(3) has maintained physical presence in the United States since the effectiveness date of the most recent designation, extension, or termination; and

(4) would be eligible to reapply, under such section 244, if his or her country of nationality’s designation had not been terminated.

(g) APPLICATION FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure that applicants for refugee status are not charged fees in order to apply for humanitarian relief under this section.

(2) PREVIOUS DENIAL.—The Secretary may charge a reasonable fee to an alien who applies for refugee status under this section after having previously been denied refugee status unless such denial occurred before the alien attained 21 years of age.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

**TITLE IV—MONITORING AND SUPPORTING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PROCESSING AT THE BORDER****SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Department.

(3) FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term “Flores settlement agreement” means the Stipulated Settlement Agreement filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California on January 17, 1997 (CV 85-4544-RJK).

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

(5) RESIDENT ADULT.—The term “resident adult” means any individual who is at least 18 years of age and regularly lives, shares common areas, and sleeps in a sponsor or prospective sponsor’s home.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(7) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL; SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES.—The terms “specialized instructional support personnel” and “specialized instructional support services” have the

meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(8) ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.—The term “zero tolerance policy” means the policy described in the memorandum of the Attorney General entitled “Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)”, issued on April 6, 2018.

#### SEC. 402. FAMILY REUNIFICATION.

(a) DIRECTIVES TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) FAMILY REUNIFICATION.—Consistent with section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) and other applicable Federal law, the Secretary shall re-allocate resources to facilitate the immediate family reunification of each child separated from his or her parent or guardian at or near a port of entry or within 100 miles of the border or otherwise removed from her or her parent or legal guardian by the Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, or any agent or agency thereof, if such reunification is in the best interest of the child.

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, and any other head of a Federal agency involved in the proceedings against a parent or guardian separated from the parent or guardian’s child (as described in paragraph (1) shall immediately change policies, procedures, and practices—

(A) to reunify the child separated from his or her parent or guardian; and

(B) to comply with section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232), the Flores settlement agreement, and other applicable Federal law.

(b) PARENTAL RIGHTS.—Consistent with the laws of the State in which the child is located, only an order from a court of competent jurisdiction may terminate the rights of a parent or guardian over an unaccompanied alien child, including any such child separated from the parent or guardian at such a border.

#### SEC. 403. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

#### Subtitle A—Strengthening the Government’s Ability To Oversee the Safety and Well-being of Children and Support Children Forcibly Separated From Their Families

##### SEC. 411. HEALTH CARE IN SHELTERS FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) ACCESS TO SERVICES.—The Secretary shall direct the Director, in carrying out the functions transferred to the Director under section 462(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(a))—

(1) to ensure that unaccompanied alien children who have not been placed with a sponsor have access to comprehensive, age-appropriate medical, behavioral, and mental health care services, including evidence-based and trauma-informed treatments, provided by qualified health care professionals with the appropriate certifications, licensure, training, and expertise in treating children, including infants, toddlers, and other children who are younger than 13 years of age; and

(2) to issue guidance to grantees, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the procedures for prescribing, reporting, and administration of psychotropic medication.

##### (b) NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS INITIATIVE.—

(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Out of amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry

out this section, the Secretary shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to public and nonprofit private entities and Indian tribes and tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), for the purpose of developing and maintaining programs that respond to the needs of unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

(2) BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN.—The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative coordinating center described in section 582(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh-1(a)(1)) shall develop, and make publicly available, best practices for providing evidence-based and trauma-informed health care treatment to unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (including such children who are traumatized by separation from parents or guardians by the Federal Government to facilitate enforcement of the zero tolerance policy and other infants, toddlers, and children who are younger than 13 years of age)—

(A) to carry out programs under paragraph (1);

(B) to provide services under section 412(a); and

(C) to conduct assessments under section 412(a)(1)(A).

##### (c) OVERSIGHT ON ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an evaluation of the medical, behavioral, and mental health services provided to unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement and submit a report and recommendations to the Department, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENT.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall address—

(A) the extent to which entities with which the Office of Refugee Resettlement contracts meet established standards for ensuring the safety and well-being of alien children in their care;

(B) the quality and appropriateness of the health care services provided to such children, including the administration of medications and treatment;

(C) the extent to which medical, behavioral, and mental health services address the needs of traumatized children and mitigate the long-term health consequences of trauma exposure;

(D) the adequacy of practices to assess the qualifications, including training and licensure, of the professionals administering care, including the expertise of such professionals in providing trauma-informed care;

(E) the adequacy of appropriately-trained health care staff at the Office of Refugee Resettlement tasked with assessing the adequacy of care provided to children in their care; and

(F) oversight, investigations, and actions taken to address allegations against contracted entities of mistreatment, abuse, or neglect of children under any program under Federal or State law.

##### SEC. 412. SERVICES TO UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PLACEMENT.

###### (a) TRAUMA-INFORMED, RISK-BASED, POST-PLACEMENT SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out

this section, the Secretary shall assist each unaccompanied alien child in a placement with a sponsor by—

(A) completing an individualized assessment of the need for services to be provided after placement; and

(B) providing such post-placement services during the pendency of all immigration proceedings or until no longer necessary, whichever is later.

(2) MINIMUM SERVICES.—The services referred to in paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) for the unaccompanied alien child, at least 1 post-placement case management services visit not later than 30 days after placement with a sponsor and the referral of the child to service providers in the community;

(B) for the family of the child’s sponsor, orientation and other functional family support services, as determined to be necessary in the individualized assessment; and

(C) for each unaccompanied alien child traumatized by separation of such child from the child’s parent or guardian by the Federal Government, comprehensive, trauma-informed services to assist such child.

(b) EFFECTIVE USE OF CHILD ADVOCATES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—The Secretary shall—

(1) direct the Director—

(A) to identify and track the referral rates of unaccompanied alien children to child advocates by care providers and investigate instances in which such a rate is low;

(B) to ensure that the referral criteria established by the Director are appropriately applied when a care provider determines if such a child is eligible for referral to a child advocate;

(C) to provide technical assistance to care providers to ensure compliance with such criteria;

(D) to establish a process for stakeholders and the public to refer unaccompanied alien children, including those placed with a sponsor, to the child advocate program to determine if such child meets the referral criteria for appointment of a child advocate; and

(E) to refer to a child advocate each unaccompanied alien child described in subsection (a)(2)(C); and

(2) ensure that each child advocate for an unaccompanied alien child—

(A) is provided access to materials necessary to advocate effectively for the best interest of the child, including direct access to significant incident reports, home studies, and similar materials and information; and

(B) is notified when new materials and information described in subparagraph (A) relating to the child are created or become available.

##### SEC. 413. BACKGROUND CHECKS TO ENSURE THE SAFE PLACEMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

###### (a) CRIMINAL AND CIVIL RECORD CHECKS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the functions transferred to the Director under section 462(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(a)), from amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Director shall perform, consistent with best practices in the field of child welfare, and a prospective sponsor and all resident adults in the home of the prospective sponsor shall submit to the following record checks (which shall be completed as expeditiously as possible):

(A) Fingerprint-based checks (except as described in paragraph (2)) in national crime information databases, as defined in section 534(e)(3) of title 28, United States Code.

(B) A search of the State criminal registry or repository for any State (except as described in paragraph (3)) in which the prospective sponsor or resident adult has resided during the 5 years preceding the search.

(C) A search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under section 119 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16919).

(D) A search (except as described in paragraphs (2) and (3)) of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases for any State in which the prospective sponsor or resident adult has resided during the 5 years preceding the search.

(2) PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), if the prospective sponsor is the parent or guardian of the child involved, the Director shall have discretion to determine whether the Director shall perform, and the prospective sponsor and resident adults described in paragraph (1) shall submit to, a check described in subparagraph (A) or (D) of paragraph (1).

(3) WAIVERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that it is not feasible to conduct the check described in subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1) for a State, including infeasibility due to a State's refusal or nonresponse in response to a request for related information, or that the average time to receive results from a State for such a check is more than 10 business days, the Secretary may waive the requirements of that subparagraph with respect to the State involved for a period of not more than 1 year. The Secretary may renew the waiver in accordance with this subparagraph.

(B) PROHIBITION ON DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not delegate the responsibility under subparagraph (A) to another officer or employee of the Department.

(C) STATES WHERE WAIVERS APPLY.—The Secretary shall make available, on a website of the Department, the list of States for which the requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1) are waived under this paragraph.

(4) USE OF RECORD CHECKS.—The information revealed by a record check performed pursuant to this section shall be used only by the Director for the purpose of determining whether a potential sponsor is a suitable sponsor for a placement for an unaccompanied alien child.

(b) PLACEMENT DETERMINATIONS GENERALLY.—

(1) DENIALS REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CRIMES.—The Director shall deny any placement for a prospective sponsor (other than the parent or guardian of the child involved), and may deny any placement for a prospective sponsor who is the parent or guardian of the child involved subject to subsection (c), if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of the prospective sponsor was convicted at age 18 or older of a crime that is a felony consisting of any of the following:

(A) Domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment, if the prospective sponsor or resident adult served at least 1 year imprisonment for a crime specified in this subparagraph, or if the prospective sponsor or resident adult was convicted of 2 or more crimes specified in this subparagraph, not arising out of a single scheme of criminal misconduct.

(B) A crime against a child involving pornography.

(C) Human trafficking.

(D) Rape or sexual assault.

(E) Homicide.

(2) DENALS CONSIDERED FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES.—The Director may deny a place-

ment for a prospective sponsor if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of a prospective sponsor was adjudged guilty of a civil offense or was convicted of a crime not covered by paragraph (1). The Director, in making a determination about whether to approve or deny the placement, shall consider all of the following factors:

(A) The type of offense.

(B) The number of offenses the sponsor or resident adult has been adjudged guilty or convicted of.

(C) The length of time that has elapsed since the adjudication or conviction.

(D) The nature of the offense.

(E) The age of the individual at the time of the adjudication or conviction.

(F) The relationship between the offense and the capacity to care for a child.

(G) Evidence of rehabilitation of the individual.

(H) Opinions of community and family members concerning the individual.

(c) PLACEMENT DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.—The Director may deny a placement for a prospective sponsor who is the parent or guardian of the child involved if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of a prospective sponsor was adjudged guilty of a civil offense or was convicted of a crime. The Director, in making a determination about whether to approve or deny the placement, shall consider all of the factors described in subsection (b)(2).

(d) APPEALS PROCESS.—

(1) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall provide information to each prospective sponsor on how such sponsor may appeal—

(A) a placement determination under this section, including—

(i) prompt notice of the opportunity to so appeal; and

(ii) instructions about how to participate in the appeals process; and

(B) the results of a record check performed pursuant to this section or the accuracy or completeness of the information yielded by the record check, as provided in paragraph (2), including—

(i) prompt notice of the opportunity to so appeal; and

(ii) instructions about how to participate in the appeals process.

(2) APPEAL.—Each Federal agency responsible for administering or maintaining the information in a database, registry, or repository used in a record check performed pursuant to this section or responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information yielded by the record check shall—

(A) establish a process for an appeal concerning the results of that record check, or that accuracy or completeness; and

(B) complete such process not later than 30 days after the date on which such an appeal is filed.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit the Director from establishing additional checks or procedures (besides the checks required in this section) for sponsors, to enable the Director—

(1) to oversee and promote the health, safety, and well-being of unaccompanied alien children; or

(2) to prevent the exploitation, neglect, or abuse of unaccompanied alien children.

**SEC. 414. RESPONSIBILITY OF SPONSOR FOR IMMIGRATION COURT COMPLIANCE AND CHILD WELL-BEING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish

procedures to ensure that legal orientation programs regarding immigration court and rights and responsibilities for the well-being of unaccompanied alien children are provided to all prospective sponsors of unaccompanied alien children prior to an unaccompanied alien child's placement with such a sponsor.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The procedures described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that each legal orientation program described in such subsection shall provide information on the sponsor's rights and responsibilities to—

(1) ensure the unaccompanied alien child appears at immigration proceedings and communicate with the court involved regarding the child's change of address and other relevant information;

(2) immediately enroll the child in school, and shall provide information and resources if the sponsor encounters difficulty enrolling such child in school;

(3) provide access to health care, including mental health care as needed, and any necessary age-appropriate health screening to the child;

(4) report potential child traffickers and other persons seeking to victimize or exploit unaccompanied alien children, or otherwise engage such children in criminal, harmful, or dangerous activity;

(5) seek assistance from the Department regarding the health, safety, and well-being of the child placed with the sponsor; and

(6) file a complaint, if necessary, with the Secretary or the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding treatment of unaccompanied alien children while under the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement or the Department of Homeland Security, respectively.

**SEC. 415. MONITORING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**

(a) RISK-BASED POST-PLACEMENT SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall assist each unaccompanied alien child in a placement with a sponsor by—

(A) completing an individualized assessment of the need for services to be provided after placement; and

(B) providing such post-placement services during the pendency of removal proceedings or until no longer necessary.

(2) MINIMUM SERVICES.—For the purposes of paragraph (1), the services shall, at a minimum, include—

(A) for the unaccompanied alien child, at least one post-placement case management services visit within 30 days after placement with a sponsor and the referral of unaccompanied alien children to service providers in the community; and

(B) for the family of the child's sponsor, orientation and other functional family support services, as determined to be necessary in the individualized assessment.

(b) EFFECTIVE USE OF CHILD ADVOCATES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—The Secretary shall—

(1) direct the Director—

(A) to identify and track the referral rates of unaccompanied alien children to child advocates by care providers and investigate instances in which such a rate is low;

(B) to ensure that the referral criteria established by the Director are appropriately applied when a care provider determines if such a child is eligible for referral to a child advocate;

(C) to provide technical assistance to care providers to ensure compliance with such criteria; and

(D) to establish a process for stakeholders and the public to refer unaccompanied alien

children, including those placed with a sponsor, to the child advocate program to determine if such child meets the referral criteria for appointment of a child advocate; and

(2) ensure that each child advocate for an unaccompanied alien child shall—

(A) be provided access to materials necessary to advocate effectively for the best interest of the child, including direct access to significant incident reports, home studies, and similar materials and information; and

(B) be notified when new materials and information described in subparagraph (A) relating to the child are created or become available.

**Subtitle B—Funding to States and School Districts; Supporting Education and Safety**

**SEC. 421. FUNDING TO STATES TO CONDUCT STATE CRIMINAL CHECKS AND CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.**

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “State” means each of the 50 States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES TO CONDUCT STATE CRIMINAL REGISTRY OR REPOSITORY SEARCHES AND TO CONDUCT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall, in accordance with this subsection, make payments to States, through each agency in each State tasked with administering the State criminal registry or repository required under section 413(a)(1)(B) or the State child abuse and neglect registry required under section 413(a)(1)(D), to assist with searches of such registries, repositories, or databases for prospective sponsors of unaccompanied alien children and resident adults in the home of such prospective sponsors, in accordance with section 413.

(2) ALLOTMENTS.—

(A) STATE CRIMINAL REGISTRY AND REPOSITORY SEARCHES.—In each fiscal year, using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section with respect to the program providing payments to States to assist with criminal registry or repository searches, the Secretary shall allot to each State participating in such program, through the agency in each such State tasked with administering the State criminal registry or repository described in section 413(a)(1)(B), an amount that bears the same relationship to such funds as the number of searches of such State criminal registry or repository conducted in accordance with section 413(a)(1)(B) in the State bears to the total number of such searches in all States participating in the program.

(B) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.—In each fiscal year, using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section with respect to the program providing payments to States to assist with child abuse and neglect registry and database searches, the Secretary shall allot to each State participating in such program, through the agency in each such State tasked with administering the State child abuse and neglect registries and databases described in section 413(a)(1)(D), an amount that bears the same relationship to such funds as the number of searches of such child abuse and neglect registries and databases conducted in accordance with such section in the State bears to the total number of such searches in all States participating in the program.

(C) TRANSITION RULE.—In the first fiscal year in which funds are made available under this title to carry out this section, the Secretary shall make allotments to each State participating in the programs under this sec-

tion in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B), based on the Secretary’s estimate of the number of the searches described in each such subparagraph, respectively, that each of the States are expected to conduct in such fiscal year.

(3) STATE APPLICATIONS.—Each State agency described in paragraph (1) desiring an allotment under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include an assurance that the State agency will respond promptly to all requests from the Director, within a reasonable time period determined by the Director, to conduct a search required under section 413 in a timely manner, and a description of how funds will be used to meet such assurance.

**SEC. 422. UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS.**

(a) IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT.—To be eligible for funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), a local educational agency shall—

(1) ensure that unaccompanied alien children in the area served by the local educational agency are immediately enrolled in school following placement with a sponsor, and any available academic or other records are transferred to such school; and

(2) remove barriers to enrollment and full participation in educational programs and services offered by the local educational agency for unaccompanied alien children (including barriers related to documentation, age, language, and lack of a parent or guardian), which shall include reviewing and revising policies that may have a negative effect on such children.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary of Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible local educational agencies, or consortia of neighboring local educational agencies, described in subsection (c) to enable the local educational agencies or consortia to enhance opportunities for, and provide services to, immigrant children and youth, including unaccompanied alien children, in the area served by the local educational agencies or consortia.

(c) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency, or a consortium of neighboring local educational agencies, is eligible for a grant under subsection (b) if, during the fiscal year for which a grant is awarded under this section, there are 25 or more unaccompanied alien children enrolled in the public schools served by the local educational agency or the consortium, respectively.

(2) DETERMINATIONS OF NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—The Secretary of Education shall determine the number of unaccompanied alien children for purposes of paragraph (1) based on the most accurate data available that is provided to the Secretary of Education by the Director or the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—A local educational agency, or a consortium of neighboring local educational agencies, desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of Education, which shall include a description of how the grant will be used to enhance opportunities for, and provide services to, immigrant children and youth (including unaccompanied alien children) and their families, provide trauma-informed services and supports (including mental health care services for such children and youth), improve engagement with the sponsors of such children or youth, and provide specialized instructional support services

(which may include hiring specialized instructional support personnel with expertise in providing services to such children and youth).

**TITLE V—ENSURING ORDERLY AND HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEEKING PROTECTION**

**Subtitle A—Providing a Fair and Efficient Legal Process for Children and Vulnerable Families Seeking Asylum**

**SEC. 511. COURT APPEARANCE COMPLIANCE AND LEGAL ORIENTATION.**

(a) ACCESS TO LEGAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMS TO ENSURE COURT APPEARANCE COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish procedures, consistent with the procedures established pursuant to section 414, to ensure that legal orientation programs are available for all aliens detained by the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Programs under paragraph (1) shall inform aliens described in such paragraph regarding—

(A) the basic procedures of immigration hearings;

(B) their rights and obligations relating to such hearings under Federal immigration laws to ensure appearance at all immigration proceedings;

(C) their rights under Federal immigration laws, including available legal protections and the procedure for requesting such protection;

(D) the consequences of filing frivolous legal claims and of failing to appear for proceedings; and

(E) any other subject that the Attorney General considers appropriate, such as a contact list of potential legal resources and providers.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—An alien shall be given access to legal orientation programs under this subsection regardless of the alien’s current immigration status, prior immigration history, or potential for immigration relief.

(b) PILOT PROJECT FOR NONDETAINED ALIENS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall develop and administer a 2-year pilot program at not fewer than 2 immigration courts to provide nondetained aliens with pending asylum claims access to legal information.

(2) REPORT.—At the conclusion of the pilot program under this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that describes the extent to which nondetained aliens are provided with access to counsel.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

**SEC. 512. FAIR DAY IN COURT FOR KIDS.**

(a) APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS; RIGHT TO REVIEW CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 240(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “, at no expense to the Government.”; and

(ii) by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the Attorney General may appoint or provide counsel, at Government expense, to aliens in immigration proceedings;

“(C) the alien, or the alien's counsel, not later than 7 days after receiving a notice to appear under section 239(a), shall receive a complete copy of the alien's immigration file (commonly known as an 'A-file') in the possession of the Department of Homeland Security (other than documents protected from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code);”; and

(D) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking “, and” and inserting “; and”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ALIEN REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.—A removal proceeding may not proceed until the alien, or the alien's counsel, if the alien is represented—

“(A) has received the documents required under paragraph (4)(C); and

“(B) has been provided at least 10 days to review and assess such documents.”.

(b) CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO APPOINT COUNSEL TO ALIENS IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 292. RIGHT TO COUNSEL.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), in any removal proceeding and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding, the subject of the proceeding shall have the privilege of being represented by such counsel as may be authorized to practice in such proceeding as he or she may choose. This subsection shall not apply to screening proceedings described in section 235(b)(1)(A).

“(b) ACCESS TO COUNSEL FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any removal proceeding and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding, an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act on 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) shall be represented by Government-appointed counsel, at Government expense.

“(2) LENGTH OF REPRESENTATION.—Once a child is designated as an unaccompanied alien child under paragraph (1), the child shall be represented by counsel at every stage of the proceedings from the child's initial appearance through the termination of immigration proceedings, and any ancillary matters appropriate to such proceedings even if the child attains 18 years of age or is reunified with a parent or legal guardian while the proceedings are pending.

“(3) NOTICE.—Not later than 72 hours after an unaccompanied alien child is taken into Federal custody, the alien shall be notified that he or she will be provided with legal counsel in accordance with this subsection.

“(4) WITHIN DETENTION FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that unaccompanied alien children have access to counsel inside all detention, holding, and border facilities.

“(c) PRO BONO REPRESENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Attorney General should make every effort to utilize the services of competent counsel who agree to provide representation to such children under subsection (b) without charge.

“(2) DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS.—The Attorney General shall develop the necessary mechanisms to identify counsel available to provide pro bono legal assistance and representation to children under subsection (b) and to recruit such counsel.

“(d) CONTRACTS; GRANTS.—The Attorney General may enter into contracts with, or award grants to, nonprofit agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration-related legal services to children to carry out the responsibilities under this section, including providing legal orientation, screening cases for referral, recruiting, training, and overseeing pro bono attorneys. Nonprofit agencies may enter into subcontracts with, or award grants to, private voluntary agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration related legal services to children in order to carry out this section.

“(e) MODEL GUIDELINES ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES.—The Executive Office for Immigration Review, in consultation with voluntary agencies and national experts, shall develop model guidelines for the legal representation of alien children in immigration proceedings, which shall be based on the children's asylum guidelines, the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and other relevant domestic or international sources.

“(2) PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES.—The guidelines developed under paragraph (1) shall be designed to help protect each child from any individual suspected of involvement in any criminal, harmful, or exploitative activity associated with the smuggling or trafficking of children, while ensuring the fairness of the removal proceeding in which the child is involved.

“(f) DUTIES OF COUNSEL.—Counsel provided under this section shall—

“(1) represent the unaccompanied alien child in all proceedings and matters relating to the immigration status of the child or other actions involving the Department of Homeland Security;

“(2) appear in person for all individual merits hearings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review and interviews involving the Department of Homeland Security;

“(3) owe the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and competent representation to the child as is due to an adult client; and

“(4) carry out other such duties as may be proscribed by the Attorney General or the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

“(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede—

“(1) any duties, responsibilities, disciplinary, or ethical responsibilities an attorney may have to his or her client under State law;

“(2) the admission requirements under State law; or

“(3) any other State law pertaining to the admission to the practice of law in a particular jurisdiction.”.

(2) RULEMAKING.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to implement section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by paragraph (1), in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 3006A of title 18, United States Code.

**SEC. 513. ACCESS TO COUNSEL AND LEGAL ORIENTATION AT DETENTION FACILITIES.**

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide access to counsel for all aliens detained in a facility under the supervision of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Department of Health and Human Services, or in any private facility that contracts with the Federal Government to house, detain, or hold aliens.

**SEC. 514. REPORT ON ACCESS TO COUNSEL.**

(a) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-

rity, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives regarding the extent to which aliens described in section 292(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 512(b), have been provided access to counsel.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (a) shall include, for the immediately preceding 1-year period—

(1) the number and percentage of aliens described in section 292(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 512(b), who were represented by counsel, including information specifying—

(A) the stage of the legal process at which each such alien was represented;

(B) whether the alien was in government custody; and

(C) the nationality and ages of such aliens; and

(2) the number and percentage of aliens who received legal orientation presentations, including the nationality and ages of such aliens.

**SEC. 515. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to carry out sections 512 through 514.

(b) 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 Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

**Subtitle B—Reducing Significant Delays in Immigration Court**

**SEC. 521. ELIMINATE IMMIGRATION COURT BACKLOGS.**

(a) ANNUAL INCREASES IN IMMIGRATION JUDGES.—The Attorney General shall increase the total number of immigration judges to adjudicate pending cases and efficiently process future cases by at least 75 judges during each of the fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

(b) QUALIFICATION; SELECTION.—The Attorney General shall—

(1) ensure that all newly hired immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals members are highly qualified and trained to conduct fair, impartial adjudications in accordance with applicable due process requirements; and

(2) in selecting immigration judges, may not give any preference to candidates with prior government experience compared to equivalent subject-matter expertise resulting from nonprofit, private bar, or academic experience.

(c) NECESSARY SUPPORT STAFF FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES.—To address the shortage of support staff for immigration judges, the Attorney General shall ensure that each immigration judge has sufficient support staff, adequate technological and security resources, and appropriate courtroom facilities.

(d) ANNUAL INCREASES IN BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS PERSONNEL.—The Attorney General shall increase the number of Board of Immigration Appeals staff attorneys (including necessary additional support staff) to efficiently process cases by at least—

(1) 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2019;

(2) an additional 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2020; and

(3) an additional 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2021.

(e) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study of the hurdles to efficient hiring of immigration court judges within the Department of Justice; and

(2) propose solutions to Congress for improving the efficiency of the hiring process.

**SEC. 522. IMPROVED TRAINING FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—To ensure efficient and fair proceedings, the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall facilitate robust training programs for immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

(b) MANDATORY TRAINING.—Training facilitated under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) expanding the training program for new immigration judges and Board members;

(2) continuing education regarding current developments in immigration law through regularly available training resources and an annual conference; and

(3) methods to ensure that immigration judges are trained on properly crafting and dictating decisions and standards of review, including improved on-bench reference materials and decision templates.

**SEC. 523. NEW TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE COURT EFFICIENCY.**

The Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review will modernize its case management and related electronic systems, including allowing for electronic filing, to improve efficiency in the processing of immigration proceedings.

**Subtitle C—Reducing the Likelihood of Repeated Migration to the United States**

**SEC. 531. ESTABLISHING REINTEGRATION AND MONITORING SERVICES FOR REPATRIATING CHILDREN.**

(a) CONSULTATION WITH UNHCR.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of State shall consult with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as the “UNHCR”), Central American governments, and nongovernmental organizations with expertise in child welfare and unaccompanied migrant children to develop a child-centered repatriation process for unaccompanied children being returned to their country of origin that requires a determination of the best interest of the child before the child is repatriated to his or her country of origin.

(b) COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall collaborate with regional governments and international and domestic nongovernmental organizations to reduce children’s need to emigrate again by—

(1) establishing and expanding comprehensive long-term reintegration services at the municipal level for repatriated unaccompanied children once returned to their communities of origin;

(2) establishing monitoring and verification services to determine the well-being of repatriated children in order to determine if United States protection and screening functioned effectively in identifying persecuted and trafficked children;

(3) providing emergency referrals to the UNHCR for registration and safe passage to an established emergency transit center for refugees for any repatriated children who are facing immediate risk of harm; and

(4) ensuring that international and domestic civil society organizations with expertise in child welfare, unaccompanied migrant

children, and international protection needs have access to government run reception centers for repatriated children—

(A) to identify children with protection needs; and

(B) to offer child services following their return to their communities.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 1453. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide adjustment assistance to farmers adversely affected by reduced exports resulting from tariffs imposed as retaliation for United States tariff increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I rise because I am deeply concerned about what is happening across the country to our farmers as a result of the President’s trade war with China.

Let me first say, I agree with the President 100 percent that we need fair trade deals and that we have to make sure American workers and consumers are not being taken for a ride by other countries, especially rogue countries and bad actors like China. Yet, since this trade war began last year, these tariffs are having the complete opposite effect on the people they are supposed to help. That is because tariffs are taxes, plain and simple. Tariffs are taxes, and they are being raised every day by the administration.

The President insists that tariffs force China to pay money to the U.S. Treasury, which is just not true. It is just not factually accurate at all. It is also misleading to the American people. When a tariff is placed on a Chinese good, it is the American company that is importing that product, in addition to the American consumer who ultimately buys it, that pays that additional price. It is just like adding a sales tax to any consumer good or to any commodity on which a tariff has been levied. From businesses to farmers, to consumers, these taxes are being paid for by Americans. That is not politics; that is economics.

The President thinks these tariffs will somehow punish China for its bad behavior, but it is our people who are suffering right now. Last week, we saw a report that showed that the cost of these tariffs had fallen entirely on U.S. businesses and on U.S. households. Just yesterday, China announced it is planning on retaliating, once again, with increased tariffs on \$60 billion worth of American-made goods, which sent the stock market into a tailspin.

Unemployment is incredibly low today, and the economy is doing well today, but across the country, there are so many people who don’t always feel the effects of that booming economy. Yes, they have jobs, but they also have families, healthcare costs, and other costs, so they don’t always feel the economy is doing as well for them as it is for others whom they see on the news, on TV, and in Washington, DC. Working folks aren’t going to feel the true benefits from this economic growth and from the tax cuts of 2017 if

they are paying higher taxes on the products they are buying every single day.

Just yesterday, the President was talking about the tariffs and feeling a little bit of pain but about how great a deal this is going to be and how our government will be happy. The President said: “[O]ur government is happy because we’re taking in tens of billions of dollars.” Yet that money is being brought into the Treasury on the backs of working people—hard-working American taxpayers. It is not the Chinese companies; it is not the Chinese people; it is not the Mexican people; and it is not the Canadian people. It is the American public that is paying that money into the U.S. Treasury.

Tariffs are taxes, and we are all going to pay because of this trade war. Call them whatever you want, but that is the effect they are going to have on the wallets of American taxpayers. Even the President’s own economic advisers admitted this week that it will be the Americans who will suffer as a result of this trade war, with the increased taxes being placed on them every day through the consumer goods they are purchasing.

In Alabama, our farmers, in particular, are hurting, and that is an understatement. Tariffs are affecting a cross-section of our manufacturing workforce. It has our automobile dealers concerned because of the threat of foreign automobile tariffs. Yet, even in the best of times, it is the farmers who are at the most risk. Farming is a risky business, and their margins are very tight. Many farmers in Alabama have already suffered devastating losses from natural disasters, like Hurricane Michael. Quite frankly, they are suffering another congressional disaster right now—in the words of my colleague and friend Senator ISAKSON from Georgia—because we can’t put politics aside quickly enough to get disaster aid to farmers in the South, to folks who have suffered from flooding, or to folks who have suffered from wildfires. We can’t do this because of politics, so now they are suffering. The farmers whom I visited back in South Alabama after Hurricane Michael are suffering now from the congressional disaster.

The last thing in the world they need is another administration disaster that is being manufactured because of the Chinese tariffs on their crops. In particular, soybeans are being hit. Soybean farming supports more than 11,000 jobs in Alabama, but soybean prices are at the lowest they have been in a decade. You can see from this chart how they started up. It was over \$10 just in April of 2018—over \$10. Now it is just above \$8, and it is continuing to slide. The longer this goes on, the more it hurts.

Cotton farmers have been hit. Cotton has had an almost 25-percent reduction in the market price since these tariffs took effect. We have record low unemployment in the country right now; yet

we have a growing number of bankruptcies in farm country. I was looking at reports just today that showed the rise in the number of bankruptcies, the point being that these are hitting people now.

We all want a great deal. We all want to make sure the President gets a good deal for the American public, for the American consumer, but this is hurting people right now, and they will not be able to recover if this does not end soon. Unless the President can reach a deal soon, we can expect prices to continue to deteriorate and for the economic conditions in farm country to get even worse, which will put in jeopardy generations of farmers who may get run out of business.

This is a dire situation. I am not trying to just light fire somewhere. This is really serious for these folks. You only have to watch the news every day. These are people who have supported the President of the United States and who voted for the President of the United States. They want a good deal, and they want a fair deal, but this has been going on for a long time, and there does not seem to be any end in sight. Many of my State's farmers—probably most of my State's farmers—support the President, as do others around the country. They have had his back over the last 2 or 3 years, even during the campaign. Yet, in return, these trade policies have taken money out of their pockets.

When this first started over a year ago, they believed they would get a good deal soon. They believed they could get crops in the field, that they could get their loans paid, and that they could recover from the disasters that had hit them, but it has just dragged on and on. Every time we see a new round of tweets or a new press conference, we talk about what a great deal this is going to be. Yet, when you look behind the curtain, everything is different, and the trade war goes on and on and on.

I fear he is not listening to these farmers or to the Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle—like our Finance chairman—who are telling him that these policies are hurting farmers, that they are devastating farmers. I am not sure how much longer they can hang on in this trade war. Many will. Many can hang on. Yet others cannot. Whether the next generation of farmers will take up the mantle of farming remains to be seen.

This is one reason I am introducing a bill today to update the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, which was originally created by my colleague Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, a Republican from Iowa, to provide help for farmers and producers who have been hurt by these retaliatory tariffs. TAA was originally created to help provide assistance to workers who were impacted by trade, but it was updated in 2002 to include assistance to growers, producers, and fishermen. This bill that I introduce today, as well as a com-

panion bill that has been introduced in the House, would, once again, update the program to help folks who are hurting because of trade actions that have been carried out by our government—not by another government but by ours.

Look, the fact is, no matter how many legislative stopgaps my colleagues and I propose or bailouts the President offers, the massive losses from which farmers and producers suffer are not going to end until the President calls off this trade war.

We all want better trade deals, and farmers want access to global markets. China has, without a doubt, been a bad actor on many trade issues—a rogue country on trade issues. We should be working with our allies in Europe and elsewhere to hold China accountable. Instead, the administration has decided to go it alone. We are picking fights with friends over our own trade issues with them rather than working through diplomacy to try to work those deals. We are picking fights with them, and we are going it alone against China when we so desperately need our friends to help us. China is a growing concern around the world, and we need global partners to help us with our trade issues to try to make sure the global economy stays stable.

I will be absolutely thrilled if the President of the United States negotiates a great deal. I hope he negotiates the best deal ever—the one that he says he is going to negotiate. I hope and pray we get that great deal and that we can do a trade deal with China that is fair and better for America than it has ever been in the history of this country. For all of our sakes, I hope it happens. I really do. This is not a partisan issue. This is about where we are as a country. I hope for the best for him, but, right now, these tariffs are having the opposite effect, and it is hurting so many people.

What many of us fear is going to happen in the cynical world we live in today—and we all get caught up in it, including Members of this body—is that when the President finally wakes up and realizes he has done irreparable harm and irreparable damage to so many of his own supporters with these tariffs and when he wakes up and approaches 2020 and understands that his support may be eroding among those who form the core backbone of his support, he will scramble to make a deal regardless of whether it will be a good deal or not but a deal nonetheless and regardless of whether America will come out on top.

When all is said and done, we can claim victory, but it may be a very hollow victory because, in going forward, we may have a little bit better deal or we may have a much better deal, but it will not change what is happening today or what has happened over the last year. Even if a deal is struck, we have already lost.

Farmers will still have to be digging themselves out of this financial hole

for a very long time. Many will have to declare bankruptcy and lose their farms because they couldn't wait out the President's trade gamble and his tough talk.

To mitigate the tariffs' harmful impacts, the administration is providing some aid to help farmers who are struggling as a result of the trade war. They did so last year, and they need it, but those government bailouts—and that is what they are, they are bailouts—are being paid by other American taxpayers in order to alleviate the pain inflicted by the administration's policies.

That is right. Working families across the country are being asked to step up. We do those things. We are charitable people. If somebody is in pain, we want to do that and help, but when the pain is being caused by the very person who is causing us to then step up, that makes no sense.

Folks, these handouts will not come close to making up for the losses these farmers have suffered, and it is sure not a long-term solution for a healthy trade market.

The biggest problem for these farmers is that they don't want handouts. They don't want government subsidies. They don't want handouts to them for the problems they are facing because of these trade policies. They want their markets. They want to go to China. They want to go to places around the world and share their products. They are proud of their products. We should be proud of those products.

We should not be just simply telling farmers: Do not worry because we will pay for you to grow your product. We are not worried about your markets because we will buy your soybeans. We will buy the cotton. We will buy those things if China doesn't do it. That is not what these farmers want. They don't want that charity. They want their markets. They work hard for those markets.

So how much more can our farmers take? How much more? How long can they go on like this? At what point will they be forced to cut their losses and find another way to support their families while we negotiate with China, while we tweet the fact that a good deal is coming?

At what point will Members of this body and the House of Representatives who ignore the math and the suffering of their constituents—at what point will those in this body and the House of Representatives who ignore the suffering of their constituents by supporting these harmful trade policies, at what point do they stand up?

There are so many people I have talked to who do not support these trade policies, but yet they are silent, and they say: Give the President time. He is going to get a good deal.

At what point does it come where they recognize the suffering of the farmers of the United States and my State of Alabama? At what point do they finally stand up and say enough is enough?

Over the years, the Congress of the United States has ceded a lot of authority to the executive branch of government, and now it is coming home to roost. We can't do much of anything except give speeches like this. We can try to introduce bills that probably will never get to the Senate floor. We can go home and listen to the pain, listen to the suffering, listen to people who so badly want to support the President and what he is doing, as all of us do for these new trade deals, but the fact is, we have ceded so much power to the executive branch of government. It is time for Congress to stand up. It is time for people to speak out to help their farmers, to let the administration know that this cannot go on much longer. We have to stand up and stop this pain as quickly as we can.

We can do it. The President can do it. He has smart people surrounding him. They need to explain to him again that these tariffs are being paid by the American people, not another country. Let's get this negotiated, and let's stop the bleeding for the American farmer as soon as we possibly can.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1469. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering in elections with agents of a foreign government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Prevent Foreign Interference with Elections Act of 2019. This bill provides enhanced criminal penalties and additional safeguards to prevent foreign interference in our elections.

To be clear, there are already laws on the books to prosecute those who interfere in U.S. elections. Indeed, Special Counsel Mueller charged Russian intelligence officers who hacked into U.S. computers and stole documents, for the purpose of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections.

Special Counsel Mueller also charged the Russian Internet Research Agency and several of its employees for their role in the social media campaign that was designed to manipulate American voters.

This bill, however, makes election interference a separate criminal offense. It makes clear that those who conspire with foreign actors to interfere in U.S. elections will be punished appropriately for striking at the bedrock of our democracy.

This bill does five main things.

First, it explicitly makes it a crime to conspire with foreign nationals to interfere in U.S. elections.

Interference can be accomplished through breaking a federal criminal law, such as committing fraud, or by hacking into someone's computer, or by violating federal, state, or local election laws.

As I mentioned, this bill simply leaves no doubt that working with a foreign actor to commit these offenses with the goal of interfering in a U.S. election is a crime.

And it requires that those who break this law will be sentenced separately, and in addition to any other laws that were broken.

Second, it makes it so that people convicted of interfering in our elections would be inadmissible into the United States.

There is, however, an important exception. Those who cooperate with law enforcement to help catch those responsible for interference would be eligible for an S visa.

Third, it creates a civil action, allowing the Attorney General to immediately address foreign interference once U.S. law enforcement learns of it.

This is important because foreign interference can then be stopped as soon as it is discovered.

Fourth, it prohibits foreign-financed elections ads, including foreign-financed issue ads and foreign-financed digital ads.

These expansions will help protect the integrity of our electoral process.

Fifth and finally, it prohibits providing "substantial assistance" to foreign nationals trying to interfere in our elections.

It is important that we also hold ourselves accountable by not providing aid to those wishing to do us harm.

To be clear, there was foreign interference in the 2016 Presidential election.

The Intelligence Community unanimously concluded that the Russian government interfered by "blend[ing] covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or 'trolls.'" After a nearly two-year investigation, Special Counsel Mueller confirmed these core conclusions.

Along the way, his office indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers in connection with Russian hacking operations and three companies, including the Internet Research Agency and 13 of its employees for their role in the social media campaign to influence American voters.

Unless we do something, this interference will happen again. And to stop it, we need to not only make clear that interference will result in criminal punishment, we must also update our election laws so that they can combat these new cyber-attacks. This bill does both.

I am introducing this bill today with strong Democratic support, and I would particularly like to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for his leadership on this issue.

It is my sincere hope, however, that my Republican colleagues will join us in this important effort as well.

The issue I speak about today is one that goes to the core of our democracy.

It is a bi-partisan issue that I hope both Democrats and Republicans can join in addressing.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 205—EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE SENATE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO OPERATE OR SUPPORT DIAPER BANKS AND DIAPER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

#### S. RES. 205

Whereas the lack of a sufficient clean diaper supply can adversely affect the physical, mental, and economic well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas diapers are a material basic need of every infant and toddler;

Whereas an infant requires up to 12 diapers per day, at a cost of \$70 to \$80 per month;

Whereas low-wage families and families living in poverty often rely on community donations for diapers;

Whereas addressing diaper need in local communities can improve health conditions and economic opportunities for infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas many families delay changing a diaper to extend their diaper supply, thereby increasing the incidence of diaper dermatitis, urinary tract infections, and other health ailments;

Whereas families displaced by natural disasters experience an acute need for diapers, particularly as diapers are not consistently provided through relief efforts;

Whereas diapers provided by diaper banks and volunteer distribution projects amplify the impact of resources deployed by larger disaster relief organizations;

Whereas, in September 2011, the National Diaper Bank Network was created to support children and their families and to raise awareness of diaper need among the general public;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 diapers were distributed along the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma by nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network;

Whereas the National Diaper Bank Network coordinates ongoing diaper supply efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the California wildfires, and the Midwestern floods; and

Whereas, during 2017, the more than 300 nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network distributed more than 64,000,000 donated diapers, helping ensure that each month more than 225,000 children in need received diapers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities;