

This bill would give the executive branch the flexibility it needs to help secure the sale of American military equipment to our NATO allies, which will not only promote our national security interests but, also, promote American jobs and bring in revenue to the treasury over the life of the loan.

This legislation is long overdue, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important bipartisan bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Congressman McCAUL for his hard work on this measure. He has been a tireless advocate on behalf of this issue.

NATO security is U.S. security, and the continued protection of every American is dependent upon a strong NATO alliance. Our allies selflessly demonstrated this commitment when they came to America's aid after the terrorist attack of 9/11, and it is important that the United States remain committed to our allies and our shared democratic values as well.

This is a good measure, and I am pleased to support it. I urge all Members to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2444, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

DIVIDED FAMILIES REUNIFICATION ACT

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1771) to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1771

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Divided Families Reunification Act".

SEC. 2. CONSULTATIONS ON REUNITING KOREAN AMERICANS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN NORTH KOREA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The division of the Korean Peninsula into South Korea and North Korea separated thousands of Koreans from family members.

(2) Since the signing of the Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea,

signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the "Korean War Armistice Agreement"), there has been little to no contact between Korean Americans and family members who remain in North Korea.

(3) North Korea and South Korea first agreed to reunions of divided families in 1985 and have since held 21 face-to-face reunions and multiple video link reunions.

(4) Those reunions have subsequently given approximately 24,500 Koreans the opportunity to briefly reunite with loved ones.

(5) The most recent family reunions between North Korea and South Korea took place in August 2018 and did not include any Korean Americans.

(6) The United States and North Korea do not maintain diplomatic relations and certain limitations exist on Korean Americans participating in face-to-face reunions.

(7) According to the most recent census, more than 1,700,000 people living in the United States are of Korean descent.

(8) The number of first generation Korean and Korean American family members divided from family members in North Korea is rapidly diminishing given the advanced age of those family members. More than 3,000 elderly South Koreans die each year without having been reunited with their family members.

(9) Many Korean Americans with family members in North Korea have not seen or communicated with those family members in more than 60 years.

(10) The inclusion of Korean American families in the reunion process would constitute a positive humanitarian gesture by the Government of North Korea.

(11) Section 1265 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 407) required the President to submit to Congress a report on "efforts, if any, of the United States Government to facilitate family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea".

(12) The position of Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues has been vacant since January 2017, although the President is required to appoint a Senate-confirmed Special Envoy to fill this position in accordance with section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817).

(13) In the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 3081, 111th Congress (House Report 111-187), the Committee urged "the Special Representative on North Korea Policy, as the senior official handling North Korea issues, to prioritize the issues involving Korean divided families and to, if necessary, appoint a coordinator for such families".

(b) CONSULTATIONS.—

(1) CONSULTATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA.—The Secretary of State, or a designee of the Secretary, should consult with officials of South Korea, as appropriate, on potential opportunities to reunite Korean American families with family members in North Korea from which such Korean American families were divided after the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, including potential opportunities for video reunions for Korean Americans with such family members.

(2) CONSULTATIONS WITH KOREAN AMERICANS.—The Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues of the Department of State should regularly consult with representatives of Korean Americans who have family members in North Korea with respect to efforts to reunite families divided after the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, including potential opportunities for video reunions for Korean Americans with such family members.

(3) NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State to carry out consultations under this subsection.

(c) ADDITIONAL MATTER IN REPORT.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues, shall include in each report required under section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)), a description of the consultations described in subsection (b) conducted during the year preceding the submission of each report required under such section 107(d).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH0) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1771.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking Ms. MENG for sponsoring this good bill to provide much-needed relief to Korean Americans who have been separated from their family members, many of them for decades now.

The Korean war tore families apart almost 70 years ago, and it is a humanitarian tragedy that many of them have been separated ever since. It is long past time for these families to be able to reunite. People who lost their parents when they were only toddlers are now senior citizens with children and grandchildren of their own.

The Divided Families Reunification Act requires the Department of State to consult with our South Korean allies, and the Korean-American community to make more of these reunions happen as soon as possible. Anyone who has seen footage of these reunions can attest to their profound significance—they demonstrate that the bonds of family cannot be severed by wars, by decades, by distance, or by government repression.

This bill also requires the Department of State to report to Congress on opportunities to facilitate more reunions by video connection, which is especially important to allow all Korean Americans, including those who might have difficulty with traveling long distances, a real opportunity to reconnect with their family members.

An important role in executing this humanitarian policy is the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights issues. It is deeply concerning that the Trump administration has left this position vacant for over 2 years, since January 2017. Human rights in North Korea remains a bipartisan priority for this Congress, but if we are going to effectively advance these policies, we

need to make sure that we have the people in place to execute them.

Mr. Speaker, the Divided Families Reunification Act is an excellent, bipartisan bill to continue United States' efforts to reunite families torn apart by the Korean war. I hope all Members will join me in supporting it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Divided Families Reunification Act introduced by Representative MENG.

The sad legacy of the Korean war is with us even today, almost 70 years after the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. The Korean Peninsula remains divided between a nation of free people and a nation that subjects its people to tyranny.

The Kim regime continues to threaten the peace and security of the region and of the world. Families remain broken, from those still fighting to bring their loved ones' remains home, to those with family members trapped in North Korea.

Our vibrant Korean-American community feels this legacy strongly, so I commend Congresswoman MENG for her bill, which directs the State Department to consult with South Korea and Korean Americans on opportunities to reunite families separated by the DMZ.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill to support the thousands of Korean Americans whose families were torn apart by the Korean war.

One of the most important tasks carried out by the State Department is the reunion of Americans with their family members, and this act would focus that good work on a group of people who have waited decades for that chance.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the same.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1771, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and:

Agree to H. Res. 410; and

Pass H.R. 1771.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

ENCOURAGING REUNIONS OF DIVIDED KOREAN-AMERICAN FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 410) encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 91]

YEAS—391

Abraham	Blumenauer	Chu, Judy
Adams	Blunt Rochester	Cicilline
Aderholt	Bonamici	Cisneros
Aguilar	Bost	Clark (MA)
Allen	Brady	Clarke (NY)
Allred	Brindisi	Clay
Amash	Brooks (AL)	Cleaver
Amodei	Brown (MD)	Cline
Armstrong	Buchanan	Cloud
Arrington	Buck	Clyburn
Axne	Bucshon	Cohen
Babin	Budd	Cole
Bacon	Burchett	Comer
Baird	Burgess	Conaway
Balderson	Bustos	Connolly
Banks	Byrne	Cooper
Barr	Calvert	Correa
Barragán	Carbajal	Costa
Bass	Cardenas	Courtney
Beatty	Carson (IN)	Cox (CA)
Bera	Carter (GA)	Craig
Bergman	Carter (TX)	Crawford
Beyer	Cartwright	Crenshaw
Biggs	Case	Crow
Bilirakis	Casten (IL)	Cuellar
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Cunningham
Bishop (NC)	Castro (TX)	Curtis
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)		
Davis (CA)		
Davis, Rodney		
Dean		
DeGette		
DeLauro		
DelBene		
Delgado		
Demings		
DeSaulnier		
DesJarlais		
Deutch		
Diaz-Balart		
Dingell		
Doggett		
Doyle, Michael		
F.		
Duncan		
Dunn		
Emmer		
Engel		
Escobar		
Eshoo		
Espallat		
Estes		
Evans		
Ferguson		
Finkenauer		
Fitzpatrick		
Fleischmann		
Fletcher		
Flores		
Foster		
Fox (NC)		
Frankel		
Fudge		
Fulcher		
Gabbard		
Gallagher		
Gallego		
Garamendi		
Garcia (IL)		
Garcia (TX)		
Gianforte		
Gibbs		
Gohmert		
Golden		
Gomez		
Gonzalez (OH)		
Gonzalez (TX)		
Gooden		
Gotthelmer		
Granger		
Graves (LA)		
Graves (MO)		
Green (TN)		
Green, Al (TX)		
Griffith		
Grothman		
Guest		
Guthrie		
Haaland		
Hagedorn		
Harder (CA)		
Harris		
Hartzler		
Hastings		
Hayes		
Heck		
Hern, Kevin		
Herrera Beutler		
Hice (GA)		
Higgins (LA)		
Higgins (NY)		
Hill (AR)		
Himes		
Hollingsworth		
Horn, Kendra S.		
Horsford		
Houlahan		
Hoyer		
Hudson		
Huffman		
Huizenga		
Hurd (TX)		
Jayapal		
Jeffries		
Johnson (GA)		
Johnson (LA)		
Johnson (OH)		
Johnson (SD)		
Johnson (TX)		
Jordan		
Joyce (OH)		
Joyce (PA)		
Kaptur		
Katko		
Keating		
Keller		
Kelly (IL)		
Kelly (MS)		
Kelly (PA)		
Khanna		
Kildee		
Kilmer		
Kim		
Kind		
King (IA)		
King (NY)		
Kinzinger		
Kirkpatrick		
Krishnamoorthi		
Kuster (NH)		
Kustoff (TN)		
LaHood		
LaMalfa		
Lamb		
Lamborn		
Langevin		
Larsen (WA)		
Larson (CT)		
Latta		
Lawson (FL)		
Lee (CA)		
Lee (NV)		
Lesko		
Levin (CA)		
Levin (MI)		
Lipinski		
Loebach		
Lofgren		
Long		
Loudermilk		
Lowenthal		
Lowey		
Lucas		
Luetkemeyer		
Lujan		
Luria		
Lynch		
Malinowski		
Maloney		
Carolyn B.		
Maloney, Sean		
Marchant		
Marshall		
Massie		
Mast		
Matsui		
McAdams		
McBath		
McCarthy		
McCaul		
McClintock		
McCollum		
McGovern		
McHenry		
McKinley		
McNerney		
Meeks		
Meng		
Meuser		
Miller		
Mitchell		
Moolenaar		
Mooney (WV)		
Morelle		
Mucarsel-Powell		
Murphy (FL)		
Murphy (NC)		
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Neal		
Neguse		
Norcross		
Norman		
Nunes		
O'Halleran		
Ocasio-Cortez		
Olson		
Omar		
Pallone		
Palmer		
Panetta		
Pappas		
Pascarella		
Payne		
Pence		
Perlmutter		
Perry		
Peters		
Peterson		
Phillips		
Pingree		
Pocan		
Porter		
Posey		
Pressley		
Price (NC)		
Quigley		
Raskin		
Reschenthaler		
Rice (NY)		
Rice (SC)		
Richmond		
Roby		
Rodgers (WA)		
Roe, David P.		
Rogers (AL)		
Rogers (KY)		
Rose (NY)		
Rose, John W.		
Rouda		
Rouzer		
Roy		
Roybal-Allard		
Ruiz		
Ruppersberger		
Rutherford		
Ryan		
Sánchez		
Sarbanes		
Scalise		
Scanlon		
Schakowsky		
Schiff		
Schneider		
Schrader		
Schrier		
Schweikert		
Scott (VA)		
Scott, Austin		
Scott, David		
Sensenbrenner		
Serrano		
Sewell (AL)		
Shalala		
Sherman		
Sherrill		
Shimkus		
Sires		
Slotkin		
Smith (MO)		
Smith (NE)		
Smith (NJ)		
Smith (WA)		
Smucker		
Soto		
Spanberger		
Spano		
Stanton		
Staubert		
Stefanik		
Steil		
Steube		
Stevens		
Stivers		
Suozy		
Swalwell (CA)		
Takano		
Taylor		
Thompson (CA)		
Thompson (PA)		
Thornberry		
Timmons		
Tipton		
Tlaib		
Tonko		
Torres (CA)		
Torres Small		
(NM)		
Trahan		
Trone		
Turner		
Underwood		
Upton		
Van Drew		
Vargas		
Veasey		
Vela		
Velázquez		
Visclosky		
Wagner		
Walberg		
Walden		
Walker		
Walorski		
Waltz		
Wasserman		
Schultz		
Waters		
Watkins		
Watson Coleman		
Weber (TX)		
Webster (FL)		
Welch		
Wenstrup		