

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AFFIRMING NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF UNITED STATES-IRAQ BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1062) affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1062

Whereas the United States remains committed to supporting a sovereign and democratic Iraq at peace with its neighbors and safe for its citizens, regardless of their religion, sect, or ethnicity;

Whereas in 2014, forces of the Islamic State (commonly known as “IS” and also known as “ISIS” or “ISIL”) seized significant territory in Iraq, leading Iraq’s Prime Minister to request international military intervention;

Whereas the United States began military intervention against the Islamic State in Iraq in 2014, working with international coalition partners and Iraqi security forces to combat the Islamic State and to retake Iraqi territory from Islamic State fighters;

Whereas the Islamic State ruled areas it controlled with terror and brutal violence, including through heinous acts such as mass executions, public beheadings, desecration of holy sites, sexual enslavement and rape, and abuse and torture of minors;

Whereas the Government of Iraq declared military victory against the Islamic State in December 2017, but insurgent attacks by remaining terrorist fighters have continued and threaten peace and stability in some areas of Iraq;

Whereas an estimated 6 million Iraqis have been rendered internally displaced since 2014, of whom 1.4 million remain internally displaced;

Whereas members of religious and ethnic minority groups, including Iraqi Christian communities and Yazidis, faced particular brutality under the Islamic State and often lacked the resources and capacity for protection;

Whereas the Islamic State’s destructive rule and ensuing military campaign left large areas of key population centers uninhabitable, including Anbar, Salah al-Din, and Ninawa governorates, where efforts at resettlement, reconstruction, service delivery, governance, and security remain challenging;

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) 2020 humanitarian needs assessment previously anticipated that as many as 4.1 million Iraqis will need some form of humanitarian assistance in 2020, and humanitarian needs are likely to be further exacerbated by socio-economic disruptions attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the United States was the top donor to the 2018 and 2019 United Nations Iraq Humanitarian Response Plans and has contributed nearly \$2.75 billion to humanitarian relief efforts in Iraq since 2014, including more than \$750 million in humanitarian support since fiscal year 2018;

Whereas in July 2017, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported that “after decades of war, the sheer volume of explosive

devices renders Iraq one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world”;

Whereas multiple nongovernmental human rights organizations and media investigations have reported that areas still suffering from the lack of reconstruction, service delivery, governance, and security are acutely susceptible to re-radicalization by Islamic State underground cells or follow-on elements;

Whereas human rights organizations have reported that thousands of displaced Iraqis, including children, are unable to obtain or replace civil documentation due to displacement caused by Islamic State;

Whereas some paramilitary forces, including some elements of the “Popular Mobilization Units” or “PMUs” that mobilized to fight Islamic State terrorists have yet to be fully integrated into national security institutions and threaten civilian populations in some areas, including vulnerable minority groups;

Whereas in late 2019, some Iraqi security force units, including non-state militias, responded violently to peaceful protests resulting in the deaths of more than 550 Iraqi civilians and many more injured;

Whereas in 2019 and 2020, Iranian aligned militias, some of whom operate Iraqi PMUs conducted numerous attacks on United States and coalition forces in Iraq as well as Iraqi military facilities and Iraqi nationals, including a December 2019 attack that killed a United States citizen contractor and wounded others, and a March 2020, attack that killed a United States servicemember, a United States contractor, a British soldier, and injured at least a dozen other troops;

Whereas Iranian aligned militias and some PMUs were reportedly involved in the December 31, 2019, to January 1, 2020, siege on the United States Embassy in Baghdad, in which attackers set fire to structures and damaged property;

Whereas in July 2019 the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) informed the Department of Defense and Department of State Inspector General that the Islamic State in Iraq continues to recruit from isolated rural areas “exploiting perceived weaknesses and failures of the Iraqi government, particularly in Sunni areas where the population feels neglected”;

Whereas a July 2019 Department of Defense and Department of State Lead Inspector General (LIG) Report to Congress on Operation Inherent Resolve stated the “Department of State and USAID reported that the greatest obstacles preventing IDPs from returning . . . are lack of security and economic opportunity, and damage to housing” as well as a lack of “legal assistance to recover or renew identification documents”;

Whereas in March 2020 Iraq confirmed its first case of COVID-19, which soon spread throughout the country, straining Iraq’s already struggling healthcare system, and infecting 64,000 Iraqis and killing 2,685 Iraqis, including 592 Iraqi doctors, as of June 2020; and

Whereas the LIG reported in May 2020 that “the emergence of COVID-19 in Iraq has further restricted humanitarian access and presented a significant risk to internally displaced person (IDP) and refugee camps across the country”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports a sovereign and democratic Iraq at peace with its neighbors and safe for its citizens, regardless of religion, sect, or ethnicity;

(2) calls on the Administration to provide continued support for Iraqi efforts to ensure stability and security for a democratic Iraq;

(3) calls on the Government of Iraq to take all appropriate action to protect United States diplomats and United States servicemembers, including by holding accountable those involved in the December 31, 2019, through January 1, 2020, attack on the United States Embassy;

(4) supports robust exercise by Iraqis of the rights to free speech and assembly as guaranteed to them by the Constitution of Iraq;

(5) calls on the Government of Iraq to hold accountable all those responsible for violence against peaceful protestors, including members of Iraqi security forces as applicable;

(6) calls on all countries to continue upholding the principle of non-refoulement for refugees subject to violence, persecution, or death if forcibly returned to Iraq, including for reasons of religious persecution, and to assist internally displaced Iraqis to safely and voluntarily return to their homes;

(7) encourages the United States to continue to work with bilateral and multilateral partners and international nongovernmental organizations on the stabilization of Iraq;

(8) calls on the Administration to continue assisting religious and ethnic minority communities targeted by the Islamic State for genocide;

(9) calls on the Administration to continue to work with the Government of Iraq to eliminate child labor and forced labor in Iraq;

(10) supports expanded bilateral trade and investment between the United States and Iraq;

(11) supports development of an Iraqi private sector based on rule of law and free market principles;

(12) supports the 2020 United States-Iraq Strategic Dialogues and the principles agreed upon by both the United States and Iraq in such Dialogues and the fostering of continued dialogue based on such Dialogues;

(13) calls on the Administration to continue providing medical assistance to support the Iraqi healthcare sector in combating COVID-19; and

(14) calls on the Government of Iraq to allow humanitarian and stabilization assistance programs to be implemented without bureaucratic delays or impediments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1062, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Congressmen ALLRED and RESCHENTHALER’s resolution affirming the importance of the United States-Iraq relationship.

Iraq faces many challenges. ISIS cells are beginning to reemerge; coronavirus cases have climbed in recent months; and Iraq’s economy, like much of the globe, is suffering. When

Iraq grapples with such challenges, the United States must show up to demonstrate leadership and friendship.

This bipartisan resolution expresses support for sovereign, democratic Iraq and strong relations between our two nations, while also highlighting the need to address humanitarian challenges facing Iraq, such as internal displacement, violence against minority religious and ethnic groups, and recovery of communities impacted by the counter-ISIS fight.

H. Res. 1062 also calls on Iraq to take all necessary steps to protect United States diplomats and servicemembers. When diplomats are able to do their job safely, investment in a growing economy can follow, benefiting the Iraqi people and their livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for putting forth this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1062. Affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1062 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H. Res. 1062. Affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also

reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 1062.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1062, reaffirming the U.S.-Iraq bilateral relationship.

In recent years, the United States and Iraq worked together to defeat the caliphate and free the Iraqi people from ISIS' tyrannical rule.

The American people are committed to supporting a sovereign and democratic Iraq. We have provided billions of dollars in foreign assistance to help Iraqis recover from the devastating impact that ISIS has had on their lives.

This year, the United States and Iraq held a strategic dialogue to further our bilateral relationship and discuss how we can continue to work together for our shared benefit.

With this resolution, the House is reaffirming our commitment to helping the Iraqi people and calling on the Iraqi Government to fulfill its commitments too.

The Iraqi Government needs to protect the United States' diplomats and servicemembers and hold accountable those involved in attacks against our Embassy, such as earlier this year.

The Government of Iraq also needs to hold accountable those responsible for violence against peaceful protesters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his work on this bipartisan resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCIENTHALER) for their leadership in introducing this bipartisan resolution, which I support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me today in supporting this important resolution, H. Res. 1062, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1062, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIGHTING EMERGING NARCOTICS THROUGH ADDITIONAL NATIONS TO YIELD LASTING RESULTS ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7990) to prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7990

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 "Fighting Emerging Narcotics Through Additional Nations to Yield Lasting Results Act" or the "FENTANYL Results Act".

SEC. 2. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN COVERED SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs by carrying out programs and activities to include the following:

(1) Supporting increased data collection by the United States and foreign countries through increased drug use surveys among populations, increased use of wastewater testing where appropriate, and multilateral sharing of that data.

(2) Engaging in increased consultation and partnership with international drug agencies, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and regulatory agencies in foreign countries.

(3) Carrying out the program to provide assistance to build the capacity of foreign law enforcement agencies with respect to covered synthetic drugs, as required by section 3.

(4) Carrying out exchange programs for governmental and nongovernmental personnel in the United States and in foreign countries to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters relating to the illicit use of narcotics and other drugs, as required by section 4.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this section.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

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

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO COVERED SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 660 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2420), the Secretary of State shall establish a program to provide assistance to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies of the countries described in subsection (c) to help such agencies to identify, track,