

know—we all know it—they are committing genocide. Now, we have walking point of USCIRF, a man who was actually born in a detention center, and he has been articulate and strong.

Last week, in the China Commission, which I serve as ranking member, when he testified, he just hit it out of the park in terms of good, factual information, persuasive, what next to do, with regards to that genocide and other concerns of all religious faiths that are being oppressed by the Chinese Communist Party.

I will end by saying that it is this great Commission that keeps speaking out so boldly about de-Sinicization of all religions in China. That means they all comport with Xi Jinping's etiology. Whether you are Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, Uyghur, or Falun Gong, they are breathing down your neck and putting people in prisons if they do not adhere and comport with Xi Jinping's mandates.

Frank Wolf is now a member of the Commission, and I congratulate him on that. Here is the guy that wrote the law in 1998, the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. We had real opposition to it. I was one of his cosponsors, and I put together a number of hearings in my committee where the bill first originated. But it was Frank who was the absolute champion, and we named the 2016 act after him to honor the champion work that he is doing, the life-changing work across the globe.

I thank Frank for his tenacious defense of religious freedom of all people.

Mr. Speaker, USCIRF needs to be reauthorized. I thank my colleague, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 3895, the USCIRF Reauthorization Act, is critically needed to ensure that our country maintains the tools we need to stand up for human rights and, in particular, religious freedom around the world.

I thank my friend from New Jersey, once again, for encouraging us to move on this and really for being the conscience of the House on these issues for so many, many years.

I remember many times testifying before you back in the day, and I am glad that you are still reminding us that this is some of the most important work that we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me and support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3895.

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. ROSENDALE. 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.

#### READ ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7240) to reauthorize the READ Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7240

*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 "READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 4(a) of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (division A of Public Law 115-56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note) is amended by striking "during the following five fiscal years" and inserting "during the following ten fiscal years".

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

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7240, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7240, the reauthorization of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development, or the READ Act. I would first like to thank my colleagues, Representative BASS and Representative SMITH, for their leadership in this legislation. I also want to acknowledge former Appropriations Chairwoman LOWEY for championing basic education programs for so many years in the House. The READ Act is just one piece of her great legacy.

The bill we are considering today reauthorizes the READ Act for another 5 years, continuing our country's leadership in expanding access to basic education for kids around the world. As Chairwoman LOWEY would say, education is one of the greatest force multipliers in foreign aid. Every dollar we spend on a child's education is an investment in their future and in a more peaceful and prosperous world.

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Since the READ Act was signed into law in 2017, we have made significant progress in responding to the needs of

our partner countries to improve literacy, strengthen education systems, expand access to safe learning, and promote education as a foundation for sustained economic growth.

Despite this progress, the READ Act and our basic education programs remain critical in the face of profound learning loss everywhere due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Learning poverty has increased by a third in low- and middle-income countries, with an estimated 70 percent of 10-year-olds unable to understand a simple written text, up from 57 percent before the pandemic.

According to the World Bank, this generation of students now risks losing \$21 trillion in potential lifetime earnings, or the equivalent of 17 percent of the world's GDP. Millions of kids around the world remain out of school.

Children need a quality education, whether in Bethesda, Nairobi, or Kabul. But investing U.S. taxpayer dollars in this cause is not just charity; it is in our collective interest. Reauthorizing the READ Act is thus a step toward maintaining U.S. leadership in achieving this goal, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage through the House.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the READ Act reauthorization, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Ms. BASS), my good friend and colleague, for championing this effort. I am proud to be the Republican lead on this bill. There are 50-plus cosponsors on it. It is a bipartisan bill that seeks to encourage and strengthen our efforts at education overseas.

Mr. Speaker, investment in basic education is an investment in the prosperity and the security of the next generation and the communities they live in, and that applies both at home and abroad.

Without the opportunity to attend school and learn how to read and write, children around the world are falling behind and are more vulnerable to extremism, violence, and exploitation.

In the Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights Subcommittee, Ms. BASS and I—when I was chairman of the committee and now she as chair—have held a number of hearings about this challenge of helping these children so they can have good lives, care for their families, and be as well read and as well positioned in their communities as humanly possible.

That is why the United States is a leader in this sector. The United States provides \$950 million to partner countries to support basic education around the world, making strategic investments in improving educational access, quality, and teacher training.

While important gains have been made, COVID-19 had a devastating impact on learners, both in the United States and around the world. We all

know that from our work within our own constituencies. According to the most recent report to Congress from the ILO on U.S. basic education programs, in 2021, 24 million additional students were at risk of dropping out of school; 22 million more girls and young women were at risk of forced marriages, early marriages especially, as a result of this; and 9 million additional children were at risk of child labor, all because of the impacts of COVID.

We need to do a hurry-up offense, I think, to try to get back to normalcy and back to a better regimen of training and teaching.

Despite these immense challenges, the U.S. Government's efforts to support basic education programs did reach 33.4 million learners in 73 countries around the world, and I am very proud of the United States' efforts to invest in future generations. It is a credit to our taxpayers that they are supportive of this—and they are—as well as this Congress on both sides of the aisle.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7240, the reauthorization of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act, or the READ Act, comes at a critical time.

Despite the progress we have made toward expanding access to education around the world, COVID-19 has set us back, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The bill demonstrates our continuing commitment to ensuring every child has access to safe, equitable, and quality education, and our confidence that every dollar invested in this cause returns dividends by way of global economic growth and stability.

Once again, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) for introducing this bill, along with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for their leadership in advancing this critical reauthorization. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7240, the READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2022. This bipartisan bill, I authored with Africa Subcommittee Ranking Member CHRIS SMITH, is a straightforward reauthorization of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act of 2017, which was signed into law in the 115th Congress.

The original READ Act required a five-year Comprehensive Strategy to equitably expand access to basic education for children around

the globe and measurably improve the quality of basic education and learning outcomes in literacy, numeracy, and other basic skills that prepare an individual to be an active, productive member of society and the workforce.

The READ Act Reauthorization Act, which passed the Committee on Foreign Affairs by voice vote, would extend the original authorization by an additional five years. I have also worked closely with the authors of the original READ Act, Senate Majority Whip DICK DURBIN and Senator MARCO RUBIO, who have introduced companion legislation in the Senate as S. 3938.

As implemented in the READ Act, it is the policy of the United States Government to work with partner countries, other donors, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and nongovernmental and civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations, to promote quality basic education through programs and activities.

Since the READ Act's implementation, we have begun to see significant progress in building the foundational skills necessary for students to thrive and succeed in their educational endeavors. For example, in FY 2021 alone, U.S. basic education programs reached more than 33.4 million pre-primary, primary, and secondary students in 73 countries and more than one million additional individuals with tertiary, vocational, and other workforce training.

The READ Act also required the President to submit a comprehensive integrated United States strategy to promote basic education. The U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education for Fiscal Years 2016–2023 emerged from this effort and was designed to promote basic education in partner countries for all children, particularly children from vulnerable groups, including women and children, and measurably improve the quality of basic education and the achievement of key learning outcomes. The strategy has been carried out by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through a Senior Coordinator of International Basic Education, since 2017.

Since the launch of the USG Strategy on International Basic Education in 2018, agencies and departments have: Created harmonized indicators and streamlined yearly reporting to Congress; Launched the first international basic education website that includes information across all U.S. agencies involved in supporting basic education worldwide; And has increased coordination among U.S. federal agencies and departments by establishing a process for sharing research, tools, and resources to better leverage taxpayer dollars.

Although the READ Act has seen initial success, our partners at USAID and other Federal agencies require time to update the current Strategy and adapt it to new and emerging issues in global education, such as the COVID-19 pandemic which closed schools and resulted in learning loss around the world.

USAID has already begun consulting implementing partners and think tanks at the working and local levels to update the Strategy, and they plan to have a full rollout by Sep-

tember. This update will focus on equitable learning outcomes and joint reporting on global learning poverty from COVID-19 among other issues.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has received bipartisan and bicameral support, backing from USAID (which implements the Strategy) as well as endorsements from 38 international education organizations. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this important reauthorization measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7240, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

#### SECURING GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8503) to require the development of a strategy to promote the use of secure telecommunications infrastructure worldwide, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8503

*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 “Securing Global Telecommunications Act”.

#### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress as follows:

(1) The United States Government should promote and take steps to ensure American leadership in strategic technology industries, including telecommunications infrastructure and other information and communications technologies.

(2) The expansive presence of companies linked to the Chinese Communist Party, such as Huawei, in global mobile networks and the national security implications thereof, such as the ability of the People's Republic of China to exfiltrate the information flowing through those networks and shut off countries' internet access, demonstrates the importance of the United States remaining at the technological frontier and the dire consequences of falling behind.

(3) The significant cost of countering Huawei's market leadership in telecommunications infrastructure around the world underscores the urgency of supporting the competitiveness of United States companies in next-generation information and communication technology.