

With that 4 minutes what I will do at this point in time is speak up on behalf of my good friend ELI CRANE, who is looking at the Iraq national emergency, and then my good friend MATT GAETZ, who is looking at Syria. These are all from the same area, same detail. None of them have had renewals by the National Emergencies Act. That is flawed. We allow Presidents to re-up them, but we don't do anything on the Congress side.

As a Congress, we need to step up. We need to step up our game.

If these aren't part of the National Emergencies Act—and I find it very atrocious that they are—then we need to find a home for these. We need to find a home where they manage it properly, that everybody gets a chance to see them, look at them, and inventory them. Other than that, we have to make some serious changes.

It is sad that we are here on these five. There will be 36 more coming your way because, once again, when Congress doesn't do its job, somebody has got to squawk, and I will be one of those that squawks from here to sunset.

I have to tell you, we have to do something different. I wish all Members would vote for my amendment, and, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me say I share the sentiment of the gentleman from Arizona about engaging Congress more regularly on these issues. I would like to see Congress reassert itself on issues of foreign affairs. I think we can actually all agree on that.

However, the notion of terminating these executive orders only to return assets to terrorists and some of the worst malign actors in the world strikes me as a real threat to the United States of America, counter to the principles of Democrats and Republicans.

That is why, for the reasons that I stated in my opening remarks, I believe a termination of this national emergency will actively undermine our diplomatic efforts and further destabilize Yemen.

We cannot and must not allow people who seek to undermine Yemen and the Gulf to obtain funds that would allow them to accomplish those very ends. That is why I have opposed H.J. Res. 74, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank Ranking Member DEAN PHILLIPS for his bipartisan cooperation as we work together to strengthen our country and actually work together with all Members of Congress.

The Yemen national emergency is the basis for sanctioning some of the

Iranian regime's worst henchmen in Yemen. These terrorists are responsible for staging direct attacks on Americans and direct attacks on Saudi Arabia in Saudi Arabia and on our Middle Eastern allies, diverting critical aid away from the Yemenis who desperately need it.

I have had the opportunity firsthand to see destroyed Iranian drones that had been used to kill Americans and Saudi Arabians. Clearly, they were marked very helpfully in English, "Made in Iran." There is no question what was going on.

War criminal Putin is using these same drones to murder civilians across Ukraine as war criminal Putin and the regime in Tehran as dictators with rule of gun attack democracies with rule of law worldwide.

Again, this national emergency gives no authority to the President to pursue anything outside of economic sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of July 13, 2023, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. 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 question will be postponed.

RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 22, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of July 13, 2023, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 71) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on May 22, 2003, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of July 13, 2023, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 71

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, pursuant to section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50

U.S.C. 1622), the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on May 22, 2003, in Executive Order 13303 is hereby terminated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided among and controlled by Representative MCCAUL of Texas, Representative MEEKS of New York, and Representative CRANE of Arizona, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS), and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to the resolution. The Iraq national emergency we are discussing today is the basis for sanctions against Iranian and Iran-backed terrorists who killed Americans and partner forces in Iraq, as well as supporters of al-Qaida. If we overturn this national emergency, these sanctions will automatically and immediately disappear.

This is especially and personally important to me. I am really grateful because my oldest son, Alan, served as field artillery in the Army in Iraq, and my second oldest son, Addison, was a Navy doctor serving in Iraq. They worked for the liberation of the people of Iraq.

Between 2003 and 2011, Iran-backed militias killed over 600 American soldiers serving in Iraq. Since 2018, sanctions issued pursuant to this authority have blocked over \$80 million from reaching more than 200 dangerous entities and individuals, including Iran-backed militias, their affiliates, and their supporters.

If we remove these sanctions, that money will help arm the very same people responsible for murdering our troops. Our wounded and fallen soldiers deserve better. Our Gold Star families deserve better. They deserve thoughtful policies that carefully respond to dangerous threats and yield accountability. They do not deserve arbitrary decisions to recklessly overturn sanctions authorities.

As we stand here today, Americans in the region are still on the front lines of Iran's dangerous and murderous aggression. Iran-backed militias are responsible for dozens of attacks against U.S. forces in the region in the past few years.

Examples of individuals who would have sanctions on them removed if this resolution passed are Abu Mustafa al-Sheibani and Abu Dura, IRGC-backed militia leaders who have launched attacks on the United States and British forces in Iraq. It would also remove sanctions on Misha'an al-Juburi, a Syrian who, according to the Department of Treasury, worked with al-Qaida in Iraq's jihadist umbrella organization, the Mujahidin Shura Council, to fund Sunni extremist operations to kill Americans.

Terrorist supporters should not have access to the U.S. financial system, and Americans should not be able to do business with these people who plan to kill Americans.

There is a dangerous message being sent to our enemies if we terminate sanctions programs while those under sanctions openly attack Americans.

President Donald Trump agreed. His administration stood against Iranian-backed terrorists threatening Americans and renewed the Iraq national emergency on four separate occasions.

I urge the Biden administration to engage with Congress in a more open and forthcoming dialogue about its use of these emergency economic powers, and I urge my colleagues to stand up with our troops, with military families, and with Gold Star families to oppose this reckless resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 71.

As a Gold Star son who lost his father in the Vietnam war, I understand firsthand the human cost of war. I also know my colleague from Arizona (Mr. CRANE) knows that cost, as well, as a veteran of our armed services, and I honor that.

That is why, since I came to Congress, I have worked in a bipartisan fashion to repeal and replace the 2001 AUMF and have consistently supported the repeal of the 2002 Iraq war AUMF, as well. I wish we had been able to get that legislation through the Senate last Congress, but I remain hopeful that we can do so this year.

All of this is to say that I do not have a hawkish position on Iraq, but sanctions and military force are not the same thing. Again, sanctions and military force are not the same thing. Terminating the national emergency with respect to Iraq would trigger the immediate release of currently sanctioned assets of persons who the U.S. Government has determined are a threat to Iraq's stability and reform efforts, including terrorists and others who have committed acts of terrible violence.

This is not an exaggeration. Numerous Shia militia fighters and ISIS terrorists are sanctioned under the Iraq program. The Iraq executive order is reviewed every year. Perhaps it is not a surprise that the Bush administration renewed it annually, and also the

Obama administration, even though President Obama formally ended the Iraq war in 2011 and ran for President in part based on his opposition to it.

The Trump administration also renewed the EO every year. Despite President Biden professing his full support of repealing the 2002 AUMF, the Biden administration also has sought to continue the Iraq sanctions program.

As Members can see from successive renewals and the ongoing situation in Iraq, these sanctions target groups and individuals that continue to operate against U.S. interests in Iraq and the region and are closely monitored on an ongoing basis.

We do not want terrorists to access funds to kill civilians and destabilize Iraq or the region, let alone target Americans overseas. It is important for our national security for these sanctions to remain in place, and I strongly urge Members of this body on both sides of the aisle to forcefully and in a bipartisan manner oppose this resolution.

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

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

I rise in support of my bill today, which would terminate the 2003 national emergency for Iraq. This legislation serves as a much-needed check on the Biden administration and forces Congress to do its job.

The National Emergencies Act was passed in 1976 and was originally enacted in response to Presidents FDR and Truman keeping the country in a perpetual state of emergency as part of their daily governance.

Specifically, section 202 requires Congress to vote on any resolution terminating each national emergency every 6 months: "Not later than 6 months after a national emergency is declared, and not later than the end of each 6-month period thereafter that such emergency continues, each House of Congress shall meet to consider a vote on a joint resolution to determine whether that emergency shall be terminated."

In other words, the bill requires Congress to rein in emergency declarations. However, despite this requirement, Congress has never reviewed the national emergency related to Iraq. This is recklessly endangering our Republic, our system of checks and balances, and due process, and it undermines we the people.

The extended national emergency declaration related to Iraq provides the President with broad statutory powers only meant for times of actual emergency, including the power to draft Americans without consent into Active Duty.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee are tasked with reviewing dozens of extended national emergency declarations as required by law every 6 months.

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It is long past time for Congress to do its job and terminate outdated declarations.

I have personally been deployed to Iraq three times as a Navy SEAL. I am not naive.

U.S. military overthrew Saddam Hussein's regime within 3 weeks of being there, and we killed Saddam Hussein in 2006. We formally declared the end of the Iraq war on December 15, 2011. We should not leave this national declaration for Iraq in place as a green light for the Biden administration to fuel forever wars.

Mr. Speaker, since President Biden has been in office, he is now participating in a new proxy war with Russia in Ukraine and allowed an invasion at our southern border. Spending concerns, constitutional concerns, and concerns regarding the lives of our soldiers are easily and often overlooked by this administration.

Two-thirds of veterans and majorities of military families and the public support full withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, and a vast majority of the general public, 80 percent, believe our military engagement around the world should be reduced or stay about the same size. Only 6 percent believe we should be more engaged.

The U.S. has many vital national interests—securing our borders, addressing the crisis of readiness within our military, and achieving energy security and independence. Becoming further entangled in forever wars is not one of them.

Just like the Ukraine-Russia war, Americans see no end in sight and no clear strategy to resolve forever wars. This is a clear dereliction of duty, and Congress must act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time and the right to close.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my argument is very simple: We cannot and we must not allow terrorists to obtain assets that could help them perpetuate attacks against their government, against civilians, or against Americans.

I strongly oppose H.J. Res. 71, and I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I am grateful for the bipartisan effort with Ranking Member DEAN PHILLIPS of Minnesota.

The immediate lifting of sanctions on terrorists who actively threaten

America is unconscionable. These national emergency economic authorities are scoped solely to economic sanctions authorities and are effective in preventing terrorists from accessing the financial networks they need to carry out atrocities against Americans and our allies.

American veterans of service in Iraq should be appreciated for their success in liberating the people of Iraq from a murderous dictator who was appropriately executed. This is a message toward criminal Putin that his invasion of Ukraine, totally unprovoked, will result in justice for his conduct of mass murder.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to order of the House of July 13th, 2023, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

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

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

RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 11, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of July 17, 2023, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on May 11, 2004, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House on July 17, 2023, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 79

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That pursuant to section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622), the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on May 11, 2004, in Executive Order 13338, is hereby terminated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided among and controlled by Representative MCCAUL of Texas, Representative MEEKS of New

York, and Representative GAETZ of Florida, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. The Syria National Emergency is the basis for sanctions against the regime of the murderous dictator Assad and his comrades.

For over a decade, the Assad regime, war criminal Putin, and the terrorist regime in Tehran have committed brutal atrocities against the people of Syria. The civilian mass murder in Aleppo should never be forgotten, which was facilitated by war criminal Putin.

In the last 5 years, sanctions issued pursuant to this authority have prevented over \$100 million from reaching more than 100 dangerous entities and individuals affiliated with the Assad regime and its backers, including ISIS middlemen.

This murderous regime has supported international terrorism, committed innumerable atrocities against civilians, assisted with the manufacture of ballistic missiles, and developed weapons of mass destruction.

Let me be clear: Some of the people sanctioned under this national emergency quite literally developed chemical weapons, and we know when President Donald Trump determined that chemical weapons were used, he immediately responded with a direct attack on the Assad regime.

If we overturn this national emergency, those sanctions will automatically and immediately disappear. The criminals behind Assad's weapons of mass destruction program should not be able to access credit cards to do business with Americans.

These sanctions are more than just an essential tool in countering the war criminal Bashar Al Assad. As previously mentioned, most of the proceeds from violations of the sanctions, including these sanctions on Syria, go directly to the U.S. Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism fund, which benefits American victims of terrorism, including our Nation's 9/11 families.

In addition, this resolution would terminate sanctions on people like George Haswani, who the U.S. Treasury

has named, and I quote: "A Syrian businessman who serves as a middleman for oil purchases by the Syrian regime from ISIL."

It would also lift sanctions on a number of Assad officials who support Hezbollah terrorists who threaten daily the people of Israel from Lebanon.

Today, Assad is not only a war criminal, but also the head of a narco-state. His regime spreads both the malign influence of his Iranian puppet masters and the scourge of drugs throughout the region.

The Assad regime is a critical player in the growth of regional and global trade of the narcotic Captagon. Removing these sanctions would be a gift to Assad, Putin, and the Iranian regime, as the civilized world confronts the unprovoked attacks on democracies which have rule of law being attacked by the dictators with rule of gun.

Terminating this national emergency would immediately terminate sanctions on hundreds of Assad cronies and financiers, developers of Syria's chemical weapons, terrorist-supporting middlemen who threaten America and Israel, and drug traffickers involved in the Captagon trade.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Assad regime, its dictatorship, and support the people of Syria to oppose this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 79, which terminates the national emergency pertaining to actions and policies that have existed for years, enjoyed bipartisan consensus, and underpinned a significant portion of the U.S.-Syria sanctions architecture.

More specifically, this measure targets an executive order that was issued based on legislation that Congress passed with broad bipartisan consensus: The Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, which over 400 Members of the House, including 200 Republicans, voted in support of.

For over 12 years, Syria's Assad regime has perpetrated a heinous campaign of genocide and unrelenting violence against the Syrian people, who rose up for their basic rights and freedoms after years and years of oppression.

This unceasing campaign of brutality has been aided and abetted by Assad supporters in Tehran and Moscow, and amounted to countless war crimes and the most egregious violations of international humanitarian law of which I am aware.

Relevant to this legislation, the Assad regime has served as a fertile and pliant jurisdiction for Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies to shuttle arms throughout the region, as well as grow in numbers and capabilities in support of the Assad regime's actions against the Syrian people.