

business with the unrepentant, mass murderer and drug trafficker, Bashar al-Assad, accountable.

It also includes comprehensive transparency mechanisms to prevent U.N. funding from being diverted or stolen to the regime while including robust protections of humanitarian assistance.

Assad continues his reign of terror against the people of Syria, with help from war criminal Putin and the regime in Tehran, while destabilizing the region and trafficking the destructive Captagon drug, which is now reaching Europe, and with Chinese providing drugs to Africa to destroy families.

The unconditional welcoming of mass murderer Assad into the Arab League, which we so appreciate the Arab League itself, was disgraceful. To do business with Assad is a normalization of death and depravity, in contrast to the moral standards of American allies who are members of the Arab League.

The passage of this bill is a testament to the work of the Syrian Americans, many of whom are survivors of torture at the hands of the regime. All of them have lost a loved one.

I am grateful to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, Chairman MIKE MCCAUL, Ranking Member GREG MEEKS, as well as staff, Gabriella Zach, Omar Hossino, and Stephanie Pendarvis, along with the Syrian-American patriots who are in the gallery today, who have worked to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor.

I am also grateful to be working with my good friend, Congresswoman KATHY MANNING of my sister State of North Carolina, and also Congressman MIKE LAWLER of New York.

To the Syrian people: You are not forgotten and you will never be forgotten. Your country has a rich history of democracy. We will continue to stand for a free and democratic Syria against the dictators with rule of gun who are invading democracies with rule of law.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and vice chairman of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding, and I thank my good friend from South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I stand in full support of JOE WILSON's good bill to counter the butcher, Assad. The gentleman from South Carolina and I spent a great deal in 2023 traveling the Middle Eastern region talking to our partners in the Arab world, warning them of the consequences of readmitting Assad back into the Arab League.

While official U.S. policy does not support normalization with Assad, we have U.S. Government officials, like Brett McGurk and Assistant Secretary Barbara Leaf, watering down that position of U.S. policy, encouraging Arab countries to "get what you can for normalization."

What did we get?

Madam Speaker, we got more war. The Arab countries said: Let's cut out Captagon trade and drugs. Let's return refugees from Jordan and Turkiye and Lebanon back to Syria. Let's eliminate Iranian influence in Syria.

Madam Speaker, did we get those things?

No.

That is why this bill to counter normalization is so important, because Syria, for the American people, is a giant aircraft carrier for terrorism—Israel being attacked from Syria, Iraq being attacked from Syria, Americans killed because of attacks from Syria.

Madam Speaker, I support Mr. WILSON's bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, 13 years ago, the Syrian people took to the streets demanding basic rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of democratic elections, things which many Americans, frankly, take for granted these days.

They also demanded an end to the Assad dictatorship. Assad responded with extreme brutality, including use of chemical weapons, such as sarin gas.

I am honored to represent the proud and patriotic Syrian-American community in West Virginia. I rise today to support this bipartisan legislation which will hold the Assad regime accountable for its crimes against the Syrian people.

Unlike President Trump, President Biden has refused to enforce the congressionally mandated sanctions. For example, President Biden has allowed countries in the Middle East to normalize relations, such as waiving sanctions for countries in the region to make energy agreements with Syria. The Assad regime should not be allowed to normalize, and it should not be recognized by the United States.

Syrian Americans, like many immigrants, work hard. They come here and defend their communities. They want peace and freedom around the world, things we all support. It is important for America to take leadership in this regard.

My mother fled a Communist country, Cuba, and that country, to this day, is still oppressed by the Communist brutal dictator there, who will just beat you up if they disagree with you. This is a good time to stand in support of the people and freedom and stand up against the brutal Assad dictatorship.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

We cannot overlook the Assad regime's atrocities against the Syrian

people. Allowing the regime back into international organizations would do just that.

□ 1715

I support the administration's work to hold the Assad regime accountable and believe this bill reinforces the administration's efforts by making it U.S. policy not to recognize an Assad-led Syrian Government, discourages other nations from doing so, and expands targeted sanctions on the regime.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 3202, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank JOE WILSON of South Carolina, the chairman of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee for his leadership on this bill.

When the Assad regime's war against the Syrian people began, the American people saw daily images of the regime's cruel abuses. As often happens, the news cycles change and stories slip from the front page, and then are rarely covered at all; however, it does not mean that the regime has changed or reformed or ceased.

The same butchers who gassed and tortured children are still running Syria, and they are continuing their brutality. It is vital that the United States maintain its policy of no normalization or we will be giving a green light to dictators around the world that they can wait out accountability for their crimes. Attention will shift, and they can stay in power, and that would be a death knell for human rights and international norms and standards.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3202, 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. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3202, 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. LAWLER. Madam 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 subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1800

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

# FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5856) to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5856

*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 “Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023”.

## SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

## TITLE I—COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Subtitle A—Programs To Support Victims and Persons Vulnerable to Human Trafficking

Sec. 101. Modifications to grants to assist in the recognition of trafficking.

Sec. 102. Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program.

## TITLE II—FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD

Sec. 201. Modifications to program to end modern slavery grants.

Sec. 202. Amendments to tier standards.

Sec. 203. Expanding prevention efforts at the United States Agency for International Development.

Sec. 204. Counter-trafficking in persons efforts in development cooperation and assistance policy.

Sec. 205. Clarification of nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance.

Sec. 206. Trafficking for the purposes of organ harvesting.

Sec. 207. Elimination of duplicative reporting.

## TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 301. Extension of authorizations under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

Sec. 302. Extension of authorizations under the International Megan’s Law.

## TITLE I—COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Subtitle A—Programs To Support Victims and Persons Vulnerable to Human Trafficking

### SEC. 101. MODIFICATIONS TO GRANTS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING.—Section 106(b)(2) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(b)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “GRANTS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING” and inserting “FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “under a program named ‘Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grants’” after “may award grants”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, linguistically accessible, and culturally responsive” after “age-appropriate”;

(3) in the heading of subparagraph (C), by inserting “FOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS” after “PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS”;

(4) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) give priority to local educational agencies serving a high-intensity child sex trafficking area or an area with significant child labor trafficking;

“(ii) give additional priority to local educational agencies that partner with non-profit organizations specializing in human trafficking prevention education, which partner with law enforcement and technology or social media companies, to assist in training efforts to protect children from labor trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse including grooming, materials depicting the sexual abuse of children, and human trafficking transmitted through technology; and

“(iii) consult, as appropriate, with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, and the Attorney General, to identify the geographic areas in the United States with the highest prevalence of at-risk populations for child trafficking, including children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority, homeless youth, foster youth, youth involved in the child welfare system, and children and youth who run away from home or an out-of-home placement.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—Grantees should be selected based on their demonstrated ability to—

“(i) engage stakeholders, including survivors of human trafficking, and Federal, State, local, or Tribal partners, to develop the programs;

“(ii) train the trainers, guardians, K–12 students, teachers, and other school personnel in a linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed fashion; and

“(iii) create a scalable, repeatable program to prevent child labor trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse including grooming, child sexual abuse materials, and trafficking transmitted through technology that—

“(I) uses evidence-based (as such term is defined in section 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best practices; and

“(II) employs appropriate technological tools and methodologies, including linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed approaches for trainers, guardians, educators, and K–12 students.

“(F) TRAIN THE TRAINERS.—For purposes of subparagraph (E), the term ‘train the trainers’ means having experienced or master trainers coach new trainers who are less experienced with a particular topic or skill, or with training overall, who can then teach the material to others, creating a broader reach, sustainability, and making efforts

cost- and time-efficient (commonly referred to as ‘training of trainers’).

“(G) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Secretary of the Interior to determine the appropriate demographics of the recipients or of students at risk of being trafficked or exploited, to be collected and reported with respect to grants under this paragraph, which shall include data collection of, at a minimum, students who are economically disadvantaged, members of a racial or ethnic minority, homeless youth, foster youth, youth involved in the child welfare system, and children and youth who run away from home or an out-of-home placement.

“(H) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committees on the Judiciary and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and make available to the public a report, including data on the following:

“(i) The total number of entities that received a Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grant over the past year.

“(ii) The total number of partnerships or consultants that included survivors, non-profit organizations specialized in human trafficking prevention education, law enforcement, and technology or social media companies.

“(iii) The total number of elementary and secondary schools that established and implemented evidence-based (as such term is defined in section 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best practices through programs developed using such grants.

“(iv) The total number and geographic distribution of trainers, guardians, students, teachers, and other school personnel trained using such grants pursuant to this paragraph.

“(v) The results of pre-training and post-training surveys to gauge trainees’ increased understanding of the scope and signs of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse; how to interact with potential victims and survivors of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse using age-appropriate and trauma-informed approach; and the manner in which to respond to potential child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

“(vi) The number of potential victims and survivors of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse identified and served by grantees, excluding any individually identifiable information about such children and acting in full compliance with all applicable privacy laws and regulations.

“(vii) The number of students in elementary or secondary school identified by grantees as being at risk of being trafficked or sexually exploited and abused, excluding any individually identifiable information about such children.

“(viii) The demographic characteristics of child trafficking survivors and victims, sexually exploited and abused children, and students at risk of being trafficked or sexually exploited and abused described in clauses (vi) and (vii), excluding any individually identifiable information about such children.

“(ix) Any service gaps and best practices identified by grantees.”.