

bill that would help ensure disabled veterans are provided the benefits and dignity they deserve.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I am appreciative of both Mr. GOSAR, as a veteran myself, and Mr. THANEDAR, the Democrat cosponsor of this bill, for their hard work on it and their whipping of it and whipping me and the committee to get it done.

I again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7365, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7365, 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.

STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTELLIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT LEGISLATION TO DEFEND AGAINST THE CCP ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9668) to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a working group relating to countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9668

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 “Strategic Homeland Intelligence and Enforcement Legislation to Defend against the CCP Act” or the “SHIELD Against CCP Act”.

SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP TO COUNTER CERTAIN THREATS POSED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish in the Department of Homeland Security a working group (in this section referred to as the “Working Group”), which shall carry out the duties specified in subsection (b) relating to countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party.

(2) DIRECTOR.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the Working Group shall be a Director (in this section referred to as the “Director”), who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(B) REPORTING.—The Director shall report to the Secretary of Homeland Security re-

garding all administrative, operational, and security matters of the Working Group.

(3) STAFFING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure the Working Group is provided with the following:

(A) A sufficient number of employees to perform required duties.

(B) Not fewer than one employee dedicated to ensuring compliance with privacy laws and regulations.

(4) DETAILEES.—The Working Group may accept and employ detailees with expertise in countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party to the United States, or in related fields, from any element of the intelligence community or any other Federal agency the Director determines appropriate, with or without reimbursement, consistent with applicable laws and regulations regarding such employees.

(b) DUTIES.—The Working Group shall carry out the following:

(1) Examine, assess, and report upon efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to counter terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party, including efforts to counter the Chinese Communist Party’s—

(A) nontraditional tactics and exploitation of the United States immigration system through—

- (i) identity theft;
- (ii) the immigrant and nonimmigrant visa processes;
- (iii) unlawful border crossings;
- (iv) human smuggling; and
- (v) human trafficking;

(B) predatory economic and trade practices, including the trafficking of counterfeit and pirated goods, the use of forced labor, labor exploitation for financial gain, customs fraud, and theft of intellectual property and technology;

(C) direct or indirect support for transnational criminal organizations trafficking in fentanyl, illicit drug precursors, or other controlled substances through—

- (i) the United States border;
- (ii) international mail shipments; or
- (iii) express consignment operations; and

(D) support for illicit financial activity by Chinese Money Laundering Organizations, including any repatriation to China or any other country of the proceeds derived from the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(2) Account for the resources of the Department that are dedicated to programs aimed at countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party, and any supporting information as to the efficacy of each such program.

(3) Build upon existing or ongoing evaluations and avoid unnecessary duplication by reviewing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of other appropriate working groups, committees, commissions, or entities established by the Department related to efforts to counter terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party.

(4) Identify gaps in policies, processes, and activities of the Department to respond to terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party.

(5) Facilitate cooperation and coordination among offices and components of the Department on a holistic response to countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats

posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party.

(c) ADDITIONAL DUTY RELATING TO INFORMATION SHARING.—The Working Group shall review, in coordination with the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security, information relating to terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party that is gathered by Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners, and the National Network of Fusion Centers, and incorporate such information, as appropriate, into the Working Group’s own information relating to such threats. The Working Group, in coordination with the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, shall also ensure the dissemination to Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners, and the National Network of Fusion Centers, of information related to such threats.

(d) ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that assesses terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party during the immediately preceding 12 months.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each assessment under paragraph (1) shall also include the following:

(A) A description of the activities and operations of the Working Group undertaken pursuant to subsection (b).

(B) Any other matters the Secretary of Homeland Security determines relevant.

(3) FORM.—Each assessment under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall post on a publicly available website of the Department of Homeland Security the unclassified portion of each assessment.

(4) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the submission of each assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on such assessment and the progress and challenges of the Working Group.

(e) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this section.

(f) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Director and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, shall, to the extent practicable, carry out research and development, including operational testing, of technologies and techniques for enhancing the Department’s security and situational awareness relating to countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—All activities carried out pursuant to this section—

(1) shall be carried out in accordance with applicable constitutional, privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections; and

(2) may not infringe upon the lawful exercise of free speech by United States persons.

(h) SUNSET.—The Working Group shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the establishment of the Working Group under subsection (a)(1).

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) in the House of Representatives—

(i) the Committee on Homeland Security;

(ii) the Committee on Ways and Means;

(iii) the Committee on Financial Services;

(iv) the Committee on the Judiciary; and

(v) the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and

(B) in the Senate—

(i) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs;

(ii) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs;

(iii) the Committee on Finance;

(iv) the Committee on the Judiciary; and

(v) the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(2) FUSION CENTER.—The term “fusion center” has the meaning given such term in subsection (k) of section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h).

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(4) NATIONAL NETWORK OF FUSION CENTERS.—The term “National Network of Fusion Centers” means a decentralized arrangement of fusion centers intended to enhance individual State and urban area fusion centers’ ability to leverage the capabilities and expertise of all such fusion centers for the purpose of enhancing analysis and homeland security information sharing nationally.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSONS.—The term “United States person” has the meaning given such term in section 1637(d)(10) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2015 (50 U.S.C. 1708(d)(10)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. 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 H.R. 9668.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9668, the SHIELD Against the CCP Act.

Throughout the past few years, the Chinese Communist Party has increasingly threatened our security, the security of our homeland. We must begin to come up with serious solutions to this very serious problem, and this bill is an important start.

This bill will require DHS to establish a working group to appropriately address and counter these threats.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG) for his work on this measure.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Chinese Communist Party at home and around the world have shown us that China is intent on undermining the global standing of the United States and weakening democratic institutions and norms.

According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, China is expanding its covert influence and aims to sow doubts about U.S. leadership and undermine democracy, including by interfering in our elections.

□ 1530

The FBI director has stated that the CCP poses a broad and unrelenting threat to the United States critical infrastructure.

H.R. 9668 would require the Department of Homeland Security to establish a working group to coordinate its efforts to address threats that the CCP poses to the homeland. The working group would evaluate threats posed by the CCP, identify what DHS is doing to address these threats, identify what more could be done to address these threats, and then facilitate coordination across DHS to holistically address the threats from the CCP.

By supporting this bill, Congress can ensure that DHS has a strong and unified response to the Chinese Communist Party provocation and aggression.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG).

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 9668, the SHIELD Against CCP Act.

We can all agree that the Chinese Communist Party poses a clear and present danger to America’s democracy and homeland security.

The CCP exploits every possible avenue to undermine our national security, and the Biden-Harris administration’s open southern border policy and soft-on-China policies have only aided our adversaries’ ability to harm American interests.

Our immigration system is routinely exploited by the CCP through identity theft, immigrant and nonimmigrant visa processes, and unlawful border crossings. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data, in fiscal year 2021, there were 323 apprehensions of Chinese foreign nationals. Nearly 4 years of the Biden-Harris administration have ballooned that number to 64,000.

In addition to exploiting our immigration system, the CCP also engages in theft of U.S. intellectual property and technology, which comes at a significant cost to our economy. It is estimated that China’s IP theft alone costs the average American family of four anywhere from \$4,000 to \$6,000 annually

after taxes. It is critical that DHS do more to combat these complex threats both at home and abroad.

For these reasons, I introduced H.R. 9668, the SHIELD Against CCP Act. This legislation will require the Department of Homeland Security to establish a dedicated working group to counter threats posed to our homeland security by the Chinese Communist Party.

Specifically, it will require them to examine, assess, and report on DHS’ efforts to counter the threats posed by the CCP. To ensure DHS is held accountable, H.R. 9668 also requires DHS to report annually to Congress.

It is our duty in Congress to ensure the safety and well-being of our great Nation, and we must not ignore the increasing aggression and influence of China on the global stage.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GREEN and all of the Members who have supported this legislation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this critically important piece of legislation to protect our national security and safeguard our interest.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), who is the bill’s Democratic lead.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GREEN and Congresswoman CLARKE, my good friend, for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bill I authored with Congressman STRONG, the bipartisan SHIELD Against the CCP Act.

The Chinese Communist Party is intent on promoting authoritarianism by weakening America from within. They seek to take our greatest strengths: pluralism, diversity, free speech, capitalism, and representative government, and use them against us.

China uses our freedoms, our social media, and our open society to sow chaos and division in our country. They know we cannot solve difficult problems in an environment of fear and anger, so they encourage fear and anger. They promote the most extreme sides of our thorniest debates. Whether it is Black lives matter versus blue lives matter, or transgender versus evangelicals, or Israel versus Gaza, the Chinese Communist Party promotes the most extreme positions on both sides of the debate, not with an objective of winning a debate but of fomenting dissent in America.

Add to this theft of our intellectual property, threats to our critical infrastructure, and trying to intimidate U.S. citizens through transnational repression. We must act.

The fact that today we are promoting bipartisan legislation is our greatest possible response. Democrats and Republicans can work together to combat this threat.

Our bipartisan bill counters the Chinese Communist Party with strength by, one, building the capacity of the Department of Homeland Security to

fight predatory economic and trade practices; two, preventing identity theft; three, strengthening our border security; four, providing the Department of Homeland Security with adequate resources to protect our critical infrastructure; five, improving cybersecurity; and, six, fighting transnational repression and criminal organizations.

The FBI Director has stated that the CCP, the Chinese Communist Party, poses a broad and unrelenting threat. The Chinese Communist Party is also engaged in a brutal campaign of transnational repression, targeting democracy advocates, Tibetans, Hong Kongers, Uyghurs, and other ethnic minority groups.

The Chinese Communist Party actually targets Americans, including my constituents. Just before Thanksgiving, after years of fighting for his release, I received the incredible news that my constituent, Kai Li, was finally released to the U.S. after more than a decade of wrongful imprisonment in China. If we are to honor the years Mr. Li spent in Chinese detention, then we must remain clear-eyed about the CCP threat and redouble our efforts to counter it.

Among their provocative tactics is transnational repression, which can be illustrated through the torment of Dr. Gulshan Abbas and her family. In 2018, Dr. Abbas was taken to a Uyghur forced labor camp.

What was her crime, Mr. Speaker?

Her sister, Rushan Abbas, an American, spoke out against the Uyghur genocide during a panel discussion here in America, then her sister was put in prison in China.

Think about it, Mr. Speaker. The CCP is not only carrying out mass detention, torture, forced sterilization, and forced labor against religious minorities within China, but also imprisoning family members of American citizens to suppress free expression here in America.

Let me be clear: the United States cannot waver in the face of this unrelenting strategic adversary. Today, we must demonstrate our resolve by supporting the SHIELD Against CCP Act which will help ensure that our government has a strong and unified response to the Chinese Communist Party's aggression.

Working with Congressman STRONG demonstrates that when we work together, we will succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives STRONG and SUOZZI for leading on this bill, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I echo those comments. This is another great bipartisan effort in the Committee on Homeland Security,

and Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9668, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9668, 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. GREEN of Tennessee. 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.

GOOD SAMARITAN REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED HARDROCK MINES ACT OF 2024

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2781) to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2781

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 "Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE SITE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "abandoned hardrock mine site" means an abandoned or inactive hardrock mine site and any facility associated with an abandoned or inactive hardrock mine site—

(i) that was used for the production of a mineral other than coal conducted on Federal land under sections 2319 through 2352 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the "Mining Law of 1872"; 30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.) or on non-Federal land; and

(ii) for which, based on information supplied by the Good Samaritan after review of publicly available data and after review of other information in the possession of the Administrator, the Administrator or, in the case of a site on land owned by the United States, the Federal land management agency, determines that no responsible owner or operator has been identified—

(I) who is potentially liable for, or has been required to perform or pay for, environmental remediation activities under applicable law; and

(II) other than, in the case of a mine site located on land owned by the United States, a Federal land management agency that has not been involved in mining activity on that land, except that the approval of a plan of operations under the hardrock mining regulations of the applicable Federal land management agency shall not be considered involvement in the mining activity.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term "abandoned hardrock mine site" includes a hardrock mine site (including associated facilities) that was previously the subject of a completed response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation,

and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) or a similar Federal and State reclamation or cleanup program, including the remediation of mine-scarred land under the brownfields revitalization program under section 104(k) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)).

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "abandoned hardrock mine site" does not include a mine site (including associated facilities)—

(i) in a temporary shutdown or cessation;

(ii) included on the National Priorities List developed by the President in accordance with section 105(a)(8)(B) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9605(a)(8)(B)) or proposed for inclusion on that list;

(iii) that is the subject of a planned or ongoing response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) or a similar Federal and State reclamation or cleanup program;

(iv) that has a responsible owner or operator; or

(v) that actively mined or processed minerals after December 11, 1980.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) APPLICABLE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—The term "applicable water quality standards" means the water quality standards promulgated by the Administrator or adopted by a State or Indian tribe and approved by the Administrator pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(4) BASELINE CONDITIONS.—The term "baseline conditions" means the concentrations, locations, and releases of any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, as described in the Good Samaritan permit, present at an abandoned hardrock mine site prior to undertaking any action under this Act.

(5) COOPERATING PERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "cooperating person" means any person that is named by the Good Samaritan in the permit application as a cooperating entity.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "cooperating person" does not include—

(i) a responsible owner or operator with respect to the abandoned hardrock mine site described in the permit application;

(ii) a person that had a role in the creation of historic mine residue at the abandoned hardrock mine site described in the permit application; or

(iii) a Federal agency.

(6) COVERED PERMIT.—The term "covered permit" means—

(A) a Good Samaritan permit; and

(B) an investigative sampling permit.

(7) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term "Federal land management agency" means any Federal agency authorized by law or executive order to exercise jurisdiction, custody, or control over land owned by the United States.

(8) GOOD SAMARITAN.—The term "Good Samaritan" means a person that, with respect to historic mine residue, as determined by the Administrator—

(A) is not a past or current owner or operator of—

(i) the abandoned hardrock mine site at which the historic mine residue is located; or

(ii) a portion of that abandoned hardrock mine site;

(B) had no role in the creation of the historic mine residue; and

(C) is not potentially liable under any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law for the remediation, treatment, or control of the historic mine residue.