

mission to the United Nations in New York receives the same recognition as the AU itself.

Taken together, these provisions make clear that the United States values our partnerships and will invest in multilateral cooperation that advances our interests and our American values.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has extended privileges and immunities before to the European Union, to the African Union, and, of course, to the United Nations and the Organization of American States. This bill simply applies the same standard to other organizations that the United States works with every single day.

At a time when our competitors are working overtime to expand their influence in Asia, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Africa we cannot afford to sit back.

The PARTNER Act is a concrete step to strengthen U.S. leadership, deepen our alliances, and keep America the center of global diplomacy and science.

I thank all of my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, for their leadership and for their work on this bill. This bill has broad bipartisan support. It is good for American diplomacy, good for American science, and good for American leadership in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the PARTNER Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

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Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BAUMGARTNER, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4490, the PARTNER Act. This bill represents a bold and necessary commitment to strengthening America's engagement with our allies and partner organizations worldwide by granting tailored immunities and privileges.

Of note is the inclusion of provisions from the PARTNER Act with the ASEAN Act and the Pacific Partnership Act, which together elevate U.S. cooperation with our Indo-Pacific allies.

The Indo-Pacific is home to over one-half of the world's population, vital trade routes, and rapidly growing economies and markets. It is a region that I hold as a key priority as chair of the East Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee due to its significance to national security and economic prosperity.

Meanwhile, the region also faces significant challenges, including rising geopolitical tensions, maritime disputes, and growing coercion from bad actors seeking to undermine a rules-based order.

This bill is long overdue and sends a strong message that the United States will stand shoulder to shoulder with

our friends, including our Indo-Pacific partners, from the Philippines to Palau, to promote a free, open, and prosperous region.

This bill is not just about diplomatic immunities; it is about American leadership on the global stage.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-lead this bill with Representative CASTRO, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member CASTRO and Representative KIM for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4490, the PARTNER Act. This legislation represents an important step forward in our country's ability to collaborate with our international partners. In particular, this legislation contains the text of our Strengthening Science Through Diplomacy Act which simplifies our scientific collaboration with CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

As a physicist, I spent more than two decades working with colleagues from around the globe at Fermilab in Illinois where international scientific collaboration allowed us to better understand each other and the universe that we are embedded in.

CERN already partners with several of our national laboratories, including Argonne National Lab and Fermi National Lab in the 11th District of Illinois that I represent.

In particular, this bill will allow for closer collaboration with CERN on the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment, also known as DUNE, an international flagship experiment.

DUNE will help us to discover more about the nature of subatomic particles known as neutrinos, which could help us understand fundamental questions about the origins of matter and the beginnings of the universe. It will also search for previously undetected modes of proton decay, the subject for which I received my Ph.D. thesis many moons ago.

This legislation will allow CERN to send its scientists who have been working on the DUNE project to assist in person as these experiments come online.

One of the most exciting things about the DUNE project is we don't know what it will discover. When we built our proton decay detector many moons ago, we did not know that 160,000 years ago a star blew up, one supernova, in the greater Magellanic cloud, and for 160,000 years the flash of light from that stellar explosion and the burst of neutrinos traveled toward the Earth. It arrived in 1987 when the astronomers saw the flash of light and we saw the burst of neutrinos in our underground detector, so we learned an incredible thing about these stellar explosions.

It is this sort of thing that brings you, me, and other young people into science. I thank Ranking Member CAS-

TRO, as well as Representative DUSTY JOHNSON of the great State of South Dakota, who worked with me over the last few years to ensure the success of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan effort is an important step in solidifying our partnership with CERN and maintaining our Nation's role as a leader in scientific research.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. I have no more speakers, Mr. Speaker, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time until the gentleman yields back his time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representative CASTRO and Representative KIM, for introducing this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4490, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to extend privileges and immunities to certain additional international and regional organizations, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUKUS REFORM FOR MILITARY OPTIMIZATION AND REVIEW ACT

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4233) to modify provisions relating to defense trade and cooperation among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4233

*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 "AUKUS Reform for Military Optimization and Review Act" or the "ARMOR Act".

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

It is the sense of Congress that the President should work with the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia to formulate policy that would address matters of extraterritoriality, which may present inefficiencies in defense repair, maintenance, and sustainment among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States for defense articles and services not on the excluded technology list.

#### SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO DEFENSE TRADE AND COOPERATION AMONG AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE UNITED STATES.

(a) EXPANSION OF EXPEDITED REVIEW OF EXPORT LICENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1344(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10423(c)) is amended—

(A) by striking “classified and unclassified items, and the process” and inserting “classified and unclassified items, and apply to all exports and transfers (including reexports, retransfers, temporary imports, and brokering activities), wholly within or between the geographic territory of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, or the United States, and the process”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “Any licensing application to export defense articles and services” and inserting “Any licensing application to transfer, export, reexport, retransfer, temporarily import, or broker defense articles and services wholly within or between the geographic territory of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, or the United States”.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 15 years, the President shall submit to the Chairpersons and Ranking Members of the appropriate congressional committees, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Majority Leader of the Senate a report with respect to the use of the expedited review process established by section 1344 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10423), that includes the following:

(i) An update on the progress made toward implementing such expedited review process.

(ii) The number of licenses issued.

(iii) A list of each principal applicant issued a license.

(iv) A list of defense articles and services for which a license was issued.

(B) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 38(1)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(1)(2)) is amended by striking “the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.” and inserting “the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The congressional notification requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of section 36 shall not apply with respect to the export or transfer of defense articles or defense services subject to the exemption described in this paragraph.”

(c) REQUIREMENT TO REVIEW EXCLUDED TECHNOLOGIES LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall review, annually for the covered period, and every 3 years thereafter, Supplement No. 2 to part 126 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (parts 120–130 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations)(commonly known as the “Excluded Technologies List”) to ensure inclusion of only those items required by statute, or otherwise determined by such Secretaries, to require continued licensing review for national security reasons.

(2) COVERED PERIOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered period” means the 5-year period beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to improve implementation of the AUKUS partnership.

The AUKUS partnership is a groundbreaking defense partnership between the United States, the U.K., and Australia, created with the intention of keeping a free and open Indo-Pacific and strengthening defense trade between the U.S. and our closest allies.

The AUKUS partnership presents a unique opportunity for the U.S. to strengthen our relationships with our AUKUS partners, ensure interoperability with our most important allies in any future conflict, and promote innovation in defense technology.

While Congress codified the AUKUS partnership last year, AUKUS has faced numerous challenges in its implementation due to bureaucratic red tape. Since its implementation, we have worked closely with our foreign partners and the Trump administration to discuss the challenges AUKUS Pillar II has faced.

This legislation addresses these challenges and will ensure that the AUKUS partnership is implemented according to the original intent of the partner countries, allowing the U.S. defense industry and our allies to take full advantage of the benefits of this agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4233. The AUKUS Agreement established by the Biden administration was a historic accomplishment, and Congress has played an important and constructive role in laying the legislative foundation for closer cooperation between the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

With this latest legislative effort, Representatives KIM and DEAN are continuing and furthering that legacy and promoting a free and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

AUKUS is an important way to bolster our alliance structure in East Asia and the Pacific and do what we do best as a nation: work with our allies toward a common cause, in this case, a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The AUKUS agreement accomplishes these ends by providing Australia with additional submarine training and technology in Pillar I, as well as knit-

ting together cooperative defense research and development efforts between Australia, the United States, and the U.K. in Pillar II.

This bill builds on important, bipartisan provisions agreed to in the fiscal year '24 NDAA which set the foundation for AUKUS and provides minor technical improvements, as well.

Principally, it clarifies and enshrines the ability for AUKUS partners to re-export and retransfer defense material and technology within the AUKUS construct and through established and secured channels.

The bill also provides other technical fixes and clarifications to the already strong bipartisan AUKUS foundational text which continues to serve all three AUKUS countries.

As the Trump administration conducts its belated review of AUKUS, many of us here in Congress on both sides of the aisle look forward to seeing AUKUS continue forward. This bill is a helpful contribution to its shared goals.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), who is the sponsor of this fine piece of legislation.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleague, Representative BAUMGARTNER, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 4233, the AUKUS Reform for Military Optimization and Review Act, or the ARMOR Act.

The ARMOR Act strengthens defense collaboration and trade among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, which make up the AUKUS trilateral security partnership.

Since its inception in 2021, AUKUS has been key to our collective defense strategy, promoting cooperation on cutting-edge technologies like nuclear-powered submarines, artificial intelligence, and hypersonic systems.

Unfortunately, outdated export controls and bureaucratic hurdles currently hinder the efficient sharing of critical defense technologies among our trusted partners.

□ 1710

H.R. 4233 addresses these challenges by facilitating quicker, more secure transfers of defense materials while preserving critical protections for sensitive technologies.

Specifically, it expands the expedited licensing to include retransfers, removes the congressional notification requirement on certain AUKUS transfers, requires a report on implementation of expedited review for export licenses, and requires an annual review of the Excluded Technology List to ensure the list is relevant and aligned with AUKUS goals.

The Indo-Pacific faces growing challenges, and the unholy alliance is growing more brazen and aggressive. This

week, Xi Jinping is hosting Iran, North Korea, Russia, and other hostile actors for a military parade. They are clearly sending a message to the United States and our allies that they are more united than ever.

Time is of the essence. We need to expedite the AUKUS partners' access to markets and make sure this defense pact is working as intended.

Bureaucratic delays to the AUKUS agreement undermine our ability to counter threats and to maintain technological and defense superiority.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to send a strong message to our adversaries and friends alike that the United States is serious about preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific with our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Foreign Arms Sales Task Force co-chairs, Representatives ZINKE and DEAN, for leading this bill with me.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4233, the ARMOR Act, legislation that I was proud to work on with Representative KIM and Representative ZINKE.

AUKUS was a historic initiative launched under the Biden administration. It is an example of the collective strengths of the United States, Australia, and the U.K. It exemplifies our commitment to working as allies, as partners, to positively contribute to defense security around the world, including leveraging our shared capabilities to shape a free and open Indo-Pacific and to counter the rising threat that China poses.

I recently returned from a bipartisan, bicameral codet to Australia and the Indo-Pacific, and all were eager to build on the AUKUS framework.

This legislation will strengthen the AUKUS collaboration and joint operability. It clarifies that re-exports and retransfers within the geographic territory of the United States, the U.K., and Australia are permitted under the previously exempted defense trade provisions.

Importantly, it also preserves Congress' oversight authority and continues to ensure the protection of the most sensitive technologies that underpin our security.

I am grateful to have worked with Representative KIM on this bipartisan effort to support our allies and bolster our shared defense.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, as well.

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

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

I applaud the sponsor and cosponsors of the bill for their work on this legislation. We should be working more closely together with allies who share our values. That is the central idea behind the AUKUS agreement and the driving principle of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, the AUKUS partnership is foundational to our global defense strategy. We must ensure it is implemented as it was intended.

I am proud to support this legislation to improve existing AUKUS law, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4233.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UYGHUR POLICY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2635) to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2635

*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 "Uyghur Policy Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to repress the distinct Islamic, Turkic identity of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwestern China and other areas of their habitual residence.

(2) Uyghurs, and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities historically making up the majority of the XUAR population, have maintained throughout their history a distinct religious and cultural identity.

(3) Human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and respect for the Uyghurs' unique Muslim identity are legitimate interests of the international community.

(4) The PRC has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and is thereby bound by its provisions. The PRC has also signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(5) An official campaign to encourage Han Chinese migration into the XUAR has placed immense pressure on those who seek to preserve the ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of the Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups.

(6) PRC authorities have supported an influx of Han Chinese economic immigrants into the XUAR, implemented discrimination against Uyghurs and other minorities in hiring practices, and provided unequal access to healthcare services.

(7) PRC authorities have manipulated the strategic objectives of the international war

on terror to mask their increasing cultural and religious oppression of the Muslim population residing in the XUAR.

(8) Following unrest in the region, in 2014, Chinese authorities launched their "Strike Hard against Violent Extremism" campaign, in which dubious allegations of widespread extremist activity were used as justification for gross human rights violations committed against Uyghurs and members of other minority communities in the XUAR.

(9) PRC authorities have made use of the legal system as a tool of repression, including for the imposition of arbitrary detentions and for torture against members of the Uyghur community and other minority populations.

(10) Uyghurs and Kazakhs who have secured citizenship or permanent residency outside of the PRC have attested to repeated threats, harassment, and surveillance by PRC officials.

(11) Reporting from international news organizations has found that over the past decade, family members of Uyghurs and other minority groups living outside of the PRC have gone missing or been detained to force Uyghur expatriates to return to the PRC or silence their dissent.

(12) In 2017, Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service was the first media organization to report on the PRC's vast, mass arbitrary-detention program in the XUAR in 2017.

(13) Credible evidence from human rights organizations, think tanks, and journalists confirms that more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs and members of other ethnic minority groups have been imprisoned in extrajudicial "political reeducation" centers.

(14) Independent accounts from former detainees of "political reeducation" centers describe inhumane conditions and treatment including forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced sterilization, and food deprivation.

(15) Former detainees also confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty to the PRC Government.

(16) Popular discourse surrounding the ongoing atrocities in the XUAR and advocacy efforts to assist Uyghurs remains muted in most Muslim majority nations around the world.

(17) Former Secretary of States Antony Blinken and Michael Pompeo and Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed that the PRC Government has committed genocide and crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities in the XUAR.

(18) Government bodies of multiple nations have also declared that PRC Government's atrocities against such populations in the XUAR constitute genocide, including the parliaments of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Czechia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Canada.

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately open the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) to regular, transparent, and unmanipulated visits by members of the press, international organizations including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, academic and human rights research institutions, as well as foreign delegations including from the United States Congress;

(2) the Government of the People's Republic of China should recognize, and take tangible steps to protect and preserve, the distinct ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity of Uyghurs and members of