

Congress, we can still find common ground when it comes to protecting our children, but our work cannot end here with this bill. We must continue pushing for stronger, more comprehensive solutions that address the full range of threats to our schools and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2259. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative of a school that was once subject to an act of violence, I fully support this legislation, and I thank Representative GONZALES for his introduction of H.R. 2259.

I urge my colleagues to please support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2259, 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.

PROVIDING EMOTIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH RELIEF AND LOVE ACT

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3965) to establish in U.S. Customs and Border Protection a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to be trained as support dogs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3965

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 "Providing Emotional Assistance with Relief and Love Act" or the "PEARL Act".

SEC. 2. CBP SUPPORT DOG PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), shall establish in CBP a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to be trained as support dogs for CBP's Support Canine Program.

(b) DURATION.—The pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate three years after the date of its establishment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3965.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3965, the Providing Emotional Assistance with Relief and Love Act, or the PEARL Act.

As the men and women of the United States Customs and Border Protection work under incredibly stressful conditions to protect our borders, providing a mechanism to boost their well-being will improve the mental health of our frontline officers and agents.

This legislation would enhance CBP's Support Canine Program by creating a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to serve as therapy dogs for CBP officers and agents.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES) for his leadership on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in my time serving on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have seen the importance of effective mental health services for the Department's workforce, and I thank Representative GONZALES for introducing this bill.

Individuals within the U.S. Customs and Border Protection work in high-stress environments, protecting our air, land, and sea borders. One way to help address the stressors that they face and support their mental health needs is by using therapy dogs.

That is why I do support this piece of legislation, which will create a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to be trained as therapy dogs for the CBP workforce.

Not only will this bill provide additional mental health services to CBP personnel, but it will help the dogs in need of homes in our communities, certainly something everyone can support.

I know my colleagues and I are committed to improving the mental health services offered to the men and women who work on our front lines every day. I support this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES).

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the PEARL Act.

With over 800 miles of the Texas-Mexico border, I represent the largest border district in the country. From Eagle Pass to Del Rio to the Big Bend region to El Paso, many of America's hardworking Border Patrol agents call Texas 23 home.

Protecting our Nation's border is no easy feat. It is long hours, late nights, and time away from home. The PEARL Act, named after a special canine that helped our Border Patrol agents through some tough times, gives our law enforcement one more tool to improve mental health outcomes at CBP.

In 2023, CBP launched the Support Canine Program, which aims to improve mental health resources for CBP personnel.

Here in Washington we have a saying: If you want a friend, get a dog. That is exactly what this bill is doing. My bill builds upon this goal by establishing a pilot program through the Department of Homeland Security to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to enhance the Support Canine Program.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing this legislation to support the men and women who defend our borders every day in the United States pass.

□ 1240

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we should do all that we can to provide the men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection with effective mental health services, and this bill is a significant step in the right direction. I speak from personal experience.

Mr. Speaker, I got my children a dog a couple of years ago after they were struggling from the aftereffects and trauma of being in Tel Aviv on October 7. It has done wonders for their mental health. I know personally how important therapy dogs can be.

The fact that this bill also helps dogs in need by getting them out of shelters and finding them good homes is something that we can and should all get behind.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3965, the PEARL Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3965.

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.

TREN DE ARAGUA BORDER SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT ACT

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4070) to require a homeland security border threat assessment on Tren de Aragua and associated strategic plan, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4070

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 “Tren de Aragua Border Security Threat Assessment Act”.

SEC. 2. HOMELAND SECURITY BORDER THREAT ASSESSMENT ON TREN DE ARAGUA; STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) THREAT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the intelligence community and the heads of other relevant Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a border threat assessment regarding Tren de Aragua (in this section referred to as the “threat assessment”).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The threat assessment shall include the following:

(A) An identification of current and potential criminal threats posed by members of Tren de Aragua and affiliates seeking to—

(i) unlawfully enter the United States through the southwest, northern, or maritime border; or

(ii) exploit any security vulnerabilities along the southwest, northern, or maritime border.

(B) Descriptions of the following with respect to Tren de Aragua:

(i) Origins.

(ii) Strategic aims.

(iii) Tactical methods.

(iv) Funding sources.

(v) Leadership structure.

(vi) Chronological growth and presence in the United States.

(C) Any other matters the Secretary of Homeland Security considers appropriate.

(3) FORM.—The threat assessment shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the submission of the threat assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategic plan (in this subsection referred to as the “Strategic Plan”) relating to countering the threats identified in the threat assessment, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) CONTENTS.—The Strategic Plan shall include, at a minimum, a consideration of the following:

(A) The threat assessment, with an emphasis on efforts to mitigate the criminal threats from transnational criminal organizations, including the threats identified in the threat assessment in accordance with subsection (a)(2)(A).

(B) Efforts to analyze and disseminate border security and border threat information between Department of Homeland Security border security components with the following:

(i) Other appropriate Federal departments and agencies with missions associated with the southwest, northern, or maritime border.

(ii) State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies with jurisdictions adjacent to the southwest, northern, or maritime border.

(C) Efforts to locate, detect, interdict, and disrupt transnational criminal organizations, including Tren de Aragua.

(D) Efforts to prevent transnational criminal organizations, including Tren de Aragua, from proliferating in the United States.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(2) 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)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4070.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4070, the Tren de Aragua Border Security Threat Assessment Act.

Tren de Aragua, a gang formed in a Venezuelan prison, has expanded its reach throughout the United States. Designated by the Trump administration as a foreign terrorist organization, Tren de Aragua members have been responsible for kidnapping and extorting businesses throughout the United States.

This legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a border threat assessment on Tren de Aragua and develop a strategic plan to counter the threats identified in the assessment.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, and I am grateful to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT) for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, conducting an assessment is an obvious and important first step in addressing any homeland security threat we face. This bill smartly and correctly requires a homeland security border threat assessment on Tren de Aragua followed by the creation of a strategic plan based on this assessment.

Unfortunately, this bill seems to be a little too late. The administration is already bombing boats in the Caribbean that they claim to be Tren de Aragua. I hope they have already done an assessment and have a plan. They certainly have not shared anything with Congress to that effect.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important for Congress to understand the threat that is leading to this administration's actions and that justifies this administration's actions. We have simply not been given enough information about the Trump administration's assessments, justification, and strategy for blowing up numerous boats off the coast of Venezuela. Members of Congress must have this information, and that is why I support this bill.

To be clear, we should have had this information long before the administration started bombing boats that they could have chosen to interdict or stop in other ways. This bill should not be necessary, but I do thank my friend from North Carolina for introducing it and recognizing that we should have a basic understanding of any organization that we are going to take military action against.

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT).

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to speak in favor of H.R. 4070, the Tren de Aragua Border Security Threat Assessment Act.

I thank Chairman GUEST and Chairman GARBARINO for their support and leadership on the Homeland Security Committee from which this bill has originated.

Before Congress, I had the privilege to work in law enforcement. I saw firsthand the horrible effects, the dangerous effects, and the lasting effects that weak borders have had on our wonderful country. Of course, there are pressures on housing, healthcare, and education wherever there are millions and millions of illegal aliens allowed to come into the country and then placed throughout our country.

Of equal, if not greater, concern to me is the rampant growth and the effects of transnational criminal organizations that have grown throughout our country. This is perhaps best seen with Tren de Aragua.

Tren de Aragua has grown its presence throughout the United States. It is growing every day and includes growth in my home State of North Carolina. My legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a comprehensive border threat assessment to identify the criminal threats posed by TdA members, the threats that are posed to our communities, and how exactly they are so successful in growing in our communities.

With this information, law enforcement and their intelligence counterparts will be better able to deploy a unified and focused strategy on how to appropriately dismantle and remove these threats from our country.

It is past time that we return to a posture of strength to defend America and our citizens. We must clearly and effectively send a message that the

United States will no longer be a safe harbor for violent foreign terrorist organizations like Tren de Aragua.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I support Members of Congress receiving more information about the Trump administration's strategy against Tren de Aragua.

Therefore, I support this piece of legislation and urge its immediate passage. It is long overdue for the Trump administration to share the information it has with Congress that justifies its military action against alleged Tren de Aragua members.

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4070. This legislation is an important first step in combating an FTO, foreign terrorist organization, that has embedded itself in our community. We see firsthand stories of the violent crimes that these organizations are associated with: robbery, kidnapping, assault, and murder.

I thank Mr. KNOTT for introducing this legislation. I wholeheartedly support this legislation. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to please support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4070.

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.

□ 1250

COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN SMUGGLING PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4071) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4071

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 "Combatting International Drug Trafficking and Human Smuggling Partnership Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. ENHANCING THE OPERATIONS OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Section 411(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection designated with the authorities granted to officers and agents of Air and Marine Operations may provide the support described in subparagraph (B) to the government of a foreign country, including by conducting joint operations with appropriate government officials within the territory of such country, if an arrangement has been entered into between the Government of the United States and the government of such country that permits such support.

"(B) SUPPORT DESCRIBED.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The support described in this subparagraph is support for the following:

"(I) The monitoring, locating, tracking, and deterrence of the following:

"(aa) Illegal drugs to the United States.

"(bb) The illicit smuggling of persons and goods into the United States.

"(cc) Terrorist threats to the United States.

"(dd) Other threats to the security or economy of the United States.

"(II) Emergency humanitarian efforts.

"(III) Law enforcement capacity-building efforts.

"(ii) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'emergency humanitarian efforts' means activities carried out by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pertaining to search and rescue activities, medical assistance, air traffic control assistance, and transport necessary to accomplish such purposes.

"(C) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iv), the Secretary may expend funds that have been appropriated or otherwise made available for the operating expenses of the Department to pay claims for money damages against the United States, in accordance with the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, which arise in a foreign country in connection with U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations in such country.

"(ii) SUBMISSION DEADLINE.—A claim may be allowed under clause (i) only if such claim is presented not later than two years after the date of the incident that gives rise to such claim.

"(iii) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the expenditure authority under clause (i) expires pursuant to clause (iv), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that describes, for each of the payments made pursuant to such clause (i), the following:

"(I) The person or entity that received such payment.

"(II) The amount paid to such person or entity.

"(III) The country in which such person or entity resides or has its principal place of business.

"(IV) A detailed account of the circumstances to justify such payment.

"(iv) SUNSET.—The expenditure authority under clause (i) shall expire on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4071.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 4071, the Combatting International Drug Trafficking and Human Smuggling Partnership Act of 2025.

Mr. Speaker, United States Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations agents play a critical role in the homeland security mission. Every day AMO agents conduct border operations to detect and disrupt human trafficking, narcotics trafficking, and to stop other dangerous and illicit contraband before it reaches our shore.

The impact of the incredible work of the men and women of CBP's Air and Marine Operations is undeniable.

In fiscal year 2025 alone, AMO enforcement actions resulted in the seizure of more than 500,000 pounds of illegal narcotics. I will say that again: One-half million pounds of potential deadly contraband were interdicted. That contraband will never make it into our communities or into the hands of our children.

However, as transnational criminal organizations continue to become more aggressive, they continue to try to extend their reach into the United States, and we must be prepared to meet this evolving threat. Strengthening international cooperation with our partners, such as those in the Western Hemisphere, is an essential first step to combating drug trafficking and human smuggling in addition to supporting other law enforcement missions.

This legislation authorizes AMO and other designated CBP personnel to continue and to expand these successful bilateral agreements by providing training, sharing information, and conducting joint operations that will increase interdictions and enhance regional security as it saves lives and it strengthens our defense and makes America safer.

By bolstering AMO's ability to work with our foreign partners, my bill will help stem the flow of illegal narcotics and ensure that criminals are intercepted before they reach our shores, and we will protect our homeland from those who seek to cause us harm.

I would like to thank Representative Pou for joining me on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation which will enhance CBP's Air and Marine Operations capability as they work to keep our Nation secure and the American people safe.