

as my distinguished colleague Mr. SCHMIDT just explained. When residents of the Southern District of Texas or the Southern District of California need to drive for hours to attend court or to go serve on a jury, which is a civic obligation, they have less access to justice than other citizens with easy and direct physical access to the court system.

It makes no sense that just because someone lives in a more rural district they should incur dramatically increased travel time and administrative expenses just to seek justice. With the price of gasoline and diesel soaring today with inflation, that is no joke.

Adding courthouses is a small step in the right direction toward making the courthouse doors accessible to all Americans, no matter where they live.

The Southern District of Texas spans 43 counties, and the Southern District of California includes San Diego County, the second most populated county in California. Residents there have the same problem many people are experiencing across the country. To access both the physical and the metaphorical courthouse doors, they need to travel long distances and wait in the backlog before having their day in court.

The easiest way to alleviate the burdens on the residents of these two growing districts is to add a courthouse. This change is cost free because there is an existing judicial facility available for the court to use in both of these places. Making use of this existing building would ensure that litigants, attorneys, witnesses, and other court users would have greater access to the justice that our Federal courts and our Constitution provide.

The administrative body for the Federal court system, the Administrative Office of the Courts, supports this bill. They know, like we do, that our country cannot have a flourishing justice system when its buildings are falling apart, its staff are underpaid, and there is a perpetual shortage of judges to administer the laws.

We have a lot to do to ensure Americans have equal access to our laws and a judiciary that they can trust to fairly hear them out and adjudicate their disputes.

This bill won't fix all the problems, but it will help more than 13 million Americans who deserve equal access to justice and greater access where they live.

I appreciate Representatives MCCAUL, RUIZ, and ISSA for their bipartisan work on this issue. I want to recognize Mr. SCHMIDT for his distinguished stewardship of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, this legislation can make a positive difference for people accessing justice in southern California and in south Texas, and I en-

courage all of my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 32.

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. SCHMIDT. 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.

PROTECTING AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND LABOR FROM INTER- NATIONAL TRADE CRIMES ACT OF 2026

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1869) to strengthen the Department of Justice enforcement against trade-related crimes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1869

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 “Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. TRADE-RELATED CRIMES DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “trade-related crimes” shall be defined as violations of law that are implicated by criminal activities in furtherance of the evasion of duties, tariffs, and other import- and export-related fees, import and export restrictions, or requirements imposed by the Tariff Act of 1930, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the Trade Act of 1974, or the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, as well as all other laws and regulations involving criminal activities relating to United States imports and exports, trade-based money laundering, and smuggling.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STRUCTURE TO PROSECUTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CRIMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A task force, named program, or other similar structure to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes, with particular emphasis on violations of the statutes enumerated in section 4(a)(2), shall be established within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice not later than 120 days after the date on which appropriations are made available to carry out this Act, and coordinated by a supervisory criminal trial attorney selected by the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division or other official designated by the Attorney General.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To support this effort, the Attorney General shall—

(1) create within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice new positions for criminal trial attorneys and associated support personnel responsible for leading and coordinating trade-related crime investigations and cases, including those that may significantly impact more than one district;

(2) ensure that experienced and technically qualified criminal prosecutors support the effort; and

(3) promote and ensure effective interaction with law enforcement, industry representatives,

and the public in matters relating to trade-related crimes.

SEC. 4. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF NEW TRADE CRIMES STRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Through the efforts of the task force, named program, or other structure identified in section 3(a), the Attorney General shall accomplish each of the following:

(1) Increase the capabilities and capacity of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to prosecute trade-related crimes.

(2) Increase the number of trade-related crimes being investigated and prosecuted, including pursuant to health, safety, financial, and economic trade-related crimes, including—

(A) section 305 of title 13, United States Code;

(B) section 15 or 16 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2614 or 2615);

(C) section 371 of title 18, United States Code;

(D) section 541 of title 18, United States Code;

(E) section 542 of title 18, United States Code;

(F) section 543 of title 18, United States Code;

(G) section 545 of title 18, United States Code;

(H) section 546 of title 18, United States Code;

(I) section 554 of title 18, United States Code;

(J) section 1001 of title 18, United States Code;

(K) section 1341 of title 18, United States Code;

(L) section 1343 of title 18, United States Code;

(M) section 1349 of title 18, United States Code;

(N) section 1589 of title 18, United States Code;

(O) section 1956 of title 18, United States Code;

(P) section 1957 of title 18, United States Code;

(Q) section 2320 of title 18, United States Code;

and

(R) section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331).

For the purposes of this Act, this list does not include violations of national security-related laws and regulations, including the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2771 et seq.), International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), Export Control and Reform Act (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), and the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4305(b)).

(3) Participate in basic and advanced training events with Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Federal agencies and provide technical assistance, where appropriate, to Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Federal agencies with respect to the investigation and prosecution of trade-related crimes.

(4) Develop multi-jurisdictional responses and partnerships with respect to trade-related crimes through informational, administrative, and technological support to other Federal agencies and agencies of countries that are trading partners of the United States, as a means for such agencies to acquire the necessary knowledge, personnel, and specialized equipment to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes.

(5) Participate in nationally coordinated investigations in any case in which the Attorney General determines such participation to be necessary, as permitted by the available resources of the Department of Justice.

(6) Ensure that all components that enforce laws against trade-related crimes regularly consult with each other.

(b) ABSENCE OF EXCLUSION OF PURSUING OTHER REMEDIES.—Litigation by the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice shall not preclude additional criminal prosecution or civil action against trade-related violations. Nothing in this Act shall prevent the Criminal Division, Civil Division, and other Department of Justice components from pursuing enforcement action where appropriate.

SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Ways and Means, and Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary and

Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the work of the Department of Justice with respect to investigation and enforcement of trade-related crimes. Specifically, the report shall—

(1) be submitted not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, not later than February 1 of each year that begins after the submission of the first report;

(2) include annual statistics on the volume of publicly charged trade-related crimes and indictments;

(3) include a summary on how the funds appropriated for trade-related crimes were utilized in the prior reporting period, including staff and operating expenses; and

(4) provide an estimate of any additional funding needed to combat trade-related crimes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1869.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, U.S. trade policy is a vital tool to protect American businesses and workers, ensure American competitiveness, and achieve our foreign policy objectives. However, smart trade policy, one that puts American workers and businesses first, means nothing if we cannot enforce it.

Today, criminal enterprises and bad actors, predominantly based in China, are breaking U.S. trade laws with impunity. This activity is showing up in three ways: financial fraud, counterfeiting, and forced labor.

Over the past decade, law enforcement has identified hundreds of instances of trade fraud, most of which originated in China. Not only has that fraud deprived us of antidumping and countervailing duties, but it has seriously undermined our trade policy.

In just one year, in FY 2024, U.S. authorities seized over \$5.4 billion in counterfeit goods, with China accounting for more than 75 percent of those seizures. Those seizures reflect billions of dollars stolen from U.S. businesses and workers, which undermines the trade policies designed to protect them.

In the past 4 years, law enforcement has identified almost \$1 billion in goods mined, produced, or manufactured, wholly or in part, in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. These goods carry significant risk of having been produced by forced labor and are illegal to import into the United States.

We must do more to punish the criminals who are breaking our trade laws and inflicting serious harm to our economy to the tune of billions of dollars every year.

Securing the integrity of our trade is how we stop the bleeding and put American workers and families first. H.R. 1869 will set up the structure needed at the Department of Justice to go after criminals who perpetrate trade crimes.

These crimes include trade fraud, tariff and duty evasion, illegal smuggling, trade-based money laundering, trafficking in counterfeit goods, and more.

This bill will give DOJ's criminal division the resources to dedicate specialized personnel to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes.

The importance of these issues to all Americans is clear from the broad bipartisan group of Members sponsoring this bill.

I thank all of the sponsors for their hard work and particularly the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, which played a vital and significant role in drafting and advancing this legislation.

I also thank the members of the Judiciary Committee for their bipartisan efforts on this bill. We may have significant policy differences on the Judiciary Committee, but I am glad we can work across party lines to advance trade policies that protect Americans.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1869, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1869, which would create a new trade crimes task force within DOJ to strengthen capacity to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes.

Trade crimes are a big problem in the U.S. Foreign hackers equip computer chips with spyware and then slip them into the bloodstream of American commerce, market opportunists use unstable materials to create counterfeit batteries that end up exploding and maiming unsuspecting e-cigarette users in our country, and handbags made with forced Uyghur labor passed off as fair trade materials deepen and perpetuate our complicity with human rights crimes.

Other trade crimes may not have a clear victim or defined perpetrator, but they are equally pernicious. Cyber intrusions can risk a company's trade secrets without their knowledge. They may never become aware of the data leak, but a foreign competitor can use the intellectual property to unfairly compete with targeted U.S. companies.

The deluge of counterfeits and the unique way trade crimes are perpetrated make it difficult for prosecutors at DOJ to enforce our laws. This legislation would help the government prevent trade loss by creating a task force to identify, investigate, and prosecute trade crimes that hurt Americans across the economy.

We are proud the legislation has been bipartisan. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on the select

committee on China, especially our distinguished colleague from Illinois, RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Judiciary Committee for working to carefully negotiate this legislation that, if properly funded, will help the U.S. crack down on foreign entities that circumvent U.S. trade laws.

Although DOJ already has dedicated personnel to enforce laws protecting Americans against illegal products, limited funding and resources prevent prosecutors from doing enough.

If we don't provide funding for this work, the bill we are voting for today has an uncertain future. The myriad investigators, prosecutors, and support staff envisioned for the task force will never be hired.

You cannot increase trade crime enforcement without increasing the number of prosecutors working on the problem, and you cannot increase the number of staff handling trade crimes without more funding.

Stopping and preventing counterfeits that hurt Americans, endanger national security, and lose billions in profits for U.S. companies is serious work. I am glad we can all agree that DOJ prosecutors should focus on keeping America safe rather than pursuing political rivals of the President and targeting perceived political enemies with bogus prosecutions.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation strongly. I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON).

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act.

This bipartisan bill will finally hold China accountable for decades of evading U.S. trade laws through transshipment, duty evasion, and forced labor.

The CCP's illicit practices are deliberately designed to take advantage of American workers and our businesses, undercutting American wages and gutting rural manufacturing towns that once thrived with good-paying jobs.

The select committee on China uncovered trade fraud by Chinese auto manufacturer Qingdao Sunsong. Sunsong was using transnational shipment to evade our U.S. tariffs, forcing an Illinois company to lay off a quarter of its workforce.

□ 1710

Just in May, a Canadian company, or actually two of them, paid the Justice Department \$19 million after being caught evading customs duties for Chinese steel. This is not an isolated event but rather a part of a broader strategy by the CCP to dominate global markets, and they are doing it on the backs of American workers while perpetrating egregious slave labor violations.

Despite the sheer volume of trade-related cases, the Department of Justice remains inadequately equipped to detect, investigate, and prosecute such offenses effectively. My bill will give the Department of Justice real tools to stop these blatant violations and ensure that penalties are meaningfully enforced. American workers have felt pain for decades because of Communist China's malfeasance. Now it is time for Communist China to face the consequences.

This is a bipartisan opportunity to support American industry, reshore domestic manufacturing, and champion American workers.

I am proud to lead this commonsense legislation with tremendous support from both Republicans and Democrats. I am grateful to have the support of China select committee Chairman MOOLENAAR and Representative KRISHNAMOORTHY on this bill, and I deeply appreciate their collaboration.

To get this done, there should be nothing partisan about delivering accountability for those who blatantly violate our laws and manipulate American workers. We have seen good progress on reshoring domestic manufacturing, but it is clear that current enforcement mechanisms aren't strong enough. We have more work to do.

My bill will help keep that momentum alive while fighting against the bad actors who will stop at nothing to undermine our country, our businesses, and our hardworking families.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation supported by union workers, steelworkers, and American workers.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY), who is an original cosponsor and eloquent champion of this legislation.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member RASKIN for yielding and Representative HINSON for supporting this incredibly important bill, H.R. 1869, the Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act, also known as the PAIL Act.

For years, the Chinese Communist Party, or CCP, has violated U.S. trade laws and victimized American workers, companies, and consumers through trade crimes like dumping, duty evasion, and fraud.

In fact, there is an entire industry in China that publicly boasts it can help Chinese products illegally flood the U.S. market despite antidumping protections that we have put in place in our laws. These criminal activities have forced far too many American companies to shutter their doors and countless American workers to lose their jobs.

Due to bipartisan pressure, last year, the Trump administration established the Trade Fraud Task Force at the Department of Justice to criminally prosecute these crimes. Our bipartisan bill

codifies the establishment of this task force and creates an oversight mechanism through annual reporting requirements to Congress. Whether it is dumping below-market iron and steel, flooding our market with illegal vapes, or violating the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, this Trade Fraud Task Force will send a clear message that these illegal trade practices must end now.

I have been proud to work with my colleagues across the aisle on this legislation. I am also grateful to Ranking Member RASKIN for his support in moving this bill through the Judiciary Committee this past year. We have come close to getting this particular piece of legislation passed and signed into law, but we haven't yet done it. This year I am hoping we can finally cross the finish line.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to fully fund this legislation and make sure it is signed into law this Congress. We cannot put this off any longer. American workers and companies depend on it.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on my side. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers here. I urge everybody to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to support H.R. 1869, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1869, 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.

MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE STATUTORY REFERENCES TO PROVISIONS RECLASSIFIED TO TITLE 34, UNITED STATES CODE, AND TO CORRECT RELATED TECHNICAL ERRORS

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4499) to make technical amendments to update statutory references to provisions reclassified to title 34, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4499

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TITLE 2, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 2(2) of the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016 (2 U.S.C. 1881(2)) is amended by strik-

ing “(42 U.S.C. 3796b)” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 10284)”.

SEC. 2. TITLE 6, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 2002(c)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(42 U.S.C. 3714)” and inserting “(6 U.S.C. 603 note)”.

SEC. 3. TITLE 8, UNITED STATES CODE.

(1) Section 403(d) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-56, 8 U.S.C. 1105 note) is amended by striking “(subtitle A of title II of Public Law 105-251; 42 U.S.C. 14611-16)” and inserting “(subtitle A of title II of Public Law 105-251; 34 U.S.C. 40311 et seq.)”.

(2) Section 204(a)(1)(A)(viii)(II) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(A)(viii)(II)) is amended by inserting “(34 U.S.C. 20911)” after “section 111 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006”.

(3) Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended as follows:

(A) Subsection (d)(3)(A) is amended by striking “section 3 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005” and inserting “section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a))”.

(B) Subsection (r)(5)(A) is amended by striking “section 3 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005” and inserting “section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a))”.

(4) Section 833(e)(2) of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 (8 U.S.C. 1375a(e)(2)) is amended by striking “section 3 of 12 this Act” and inserting “section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a))”.

SEC. 4. TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.

(1) Section 115(a)(8)(C)(i) of the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-119; 10 U.S.C. 951 note) is amended by inserting “(34 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.)” after “Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act”.

(2) Section 1565 of title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(A) Subsection (a)(2) is amended by inserting “(34 U.S.C. 40702(a))” after “section 3(a) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000”.

(B) Subsection (d)(2) is amended by striking “(42 U.S.C. 14135a(d))” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 40702(d))”.

(C) Subsection (e)(1) is amended by inserting “(34 U.S.C. 12592(a))” after “subsection (a) of section 210304 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994”.

(D) Subsection (e)(2)(A) is amended by inserting “(34 U.S.C. 40702)” after “section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000”.

(E) Subsection (e)(2)(B) is amended by inserting “(34 U.S.C. 40703)” after “section 4 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000”.

(3) Section 575(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328, 10 U.S.C. 1787 note) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1)(B) is amended by striking “(42 U.S.C. 13031(b))” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 20341(b))”.

(B) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking “(42 U.S.C. 13031(c))” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 20341(c))”.

(4) Section 2696(f)(1)(C) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “(42 U.S.C. 3762a)” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 10171)”.

SEC. 5. TITLE 12, UNITED STATES CODE.

(1) Section 4107(c)(2) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-240, 12