

elections, citing financial problems, as a way to retain power.

His decision not to hold elections has led to political turmoil, violence and the death of dozens of people.

Human Rights Watch reported that at least 44 people have died during political demonstrations.

The Constitution was adopted to avoid the troubling onslaught of violence occurring in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which, in its 56 years since independence, has never experienced a peaceful transition of power.

Wherever there is a threat to freedom and democracy, it is the tradition of the United States to assist, to the furthest possible extent, freedom loving people in achieving their democratic aspirations.

President Joseph Kabila and other government officials have violated the rights of the Congolese people, and the law of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For these reasons, I support the sanctions taken by the Administration to correct these violations, and I support H. Res. 780.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 780, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROYCE. 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.

#### WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5332) to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiations processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5332

*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 “Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Around the world, women remain under-represented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace building efforts.

(2) Despite the historic under-representation of women in conflict resolution processes, women in conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved significant success in—

- (A) moderating violent extremism;
- (B) countering terrorism;
- (C) resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation; and
- (D) stabilizing societies by enhancing the effectiveness of security services, peace-

keeping efforts, institutions, and decision-making processes.

(3) Research shows that—

(A) peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women’s groups play an influential role in the negotiation process;

(B) once reached, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women have participated in the negotiation process; and

(C) when women meaningfully participate, peace negotiations are more likely to address the underlying causes of the conflict, leading to more sustainable outcomes.

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

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes helps to promote more inclusive and democratic societies and is critical to the long-term stability of countries and regions;

(2) the political participation and leadership of women in fragile environments, particularly during democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining lasting democratic institutions; and

(3) the United States should be a global leader in promoting the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.

#### SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced through diplomatic efforts and programs that—

(1) integrate the perspectives and interests of affected women into conflict-prevention activities and strategies;

(2) encourage partner governments to adopt plans to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes and decision-making institutions;

(3) promote the physical safety, economic security, and dignity of women and girls;

(4) support the equal access of women to aid distribution mechanisms and services;

(5) collect and analyze gender data for the purpose of developing and enhancing early warning systems of conflict and violence;

(6) adjust policies and programs to improve outcomes in gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

(7) monitor, analyze, and evaluate the efforts related to each strategy submitted under section 5 and the impact of such efforts.

#### SEC. 5. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than October 1, 2017, October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2027, the President, in consultation with the heads of the relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make publicly available a single government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed description of how the United States intends to fulfill the policy objectives in section 4. The strategy shall—

(1) support and be aligned with plans developed by other countries to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes, conflict prevention, peace building, transitional processes, and decision-making institutions; and

(2) include specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, performance metrics, time-tables, and monitoring and evaluation plans,

to ensure the accountability and effectiveness of all policies and initiatives carried out under the strategy.

(b) SPECIFIC PLANS FOR AGENCIES.—Each strategy under subsection (a) shall include a specific implementation plan from each of the relevant Federal departments and agencies that describes—

(1) the anticipated contributions of the department or agency, including technical, financial, and in-kind contributions, to implement the strategy; and

(2) the efforts of the department or agency to ensure that the policies and initiatives carried out pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Within each relevant bureau of the Department of State, the Secretary of State shall task the current Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for the implementation of the strategy under subsection (a) and the specific implementation plan for the Department under subsection (b), with respect to the roles and responsibilities of such bureau. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries tasked with such responsibility shall meet, at least twice a year, to review the implementation of the strategy and the plan and to contribute to the report under section 8(b).

(d) COORDINATION.—The President should promote the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, in coordination and consultation with international partners, including multilateral organizations, stakeholders, and other relevant international organizations, particularly in situations in which the direct engagement of the United States is not appropriate or advisable.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President, in implementing each strategy submitted under subsection (a), should—

(1) provide technical assistance, training, and logistical support to female negotiators, mediators, peace builders, and stakeholders;

(2) address security-related barriers to the meaningful participation of women;

(3) increase the participation of women in existing programs funded by the United States Government that provide training to foreign nationals regarding law enforcement, the rule of law, or professional military education;

(4) support appropriate local organizations, especially women’s peace building organizations;

(5) support the training, education, and mobilization of men and boys as partners in support of the meaningful participation of women;

(6) encourage the development of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms that are inclusive of the experiences and perspectives of women and girls;

(7) expand and apply gender analysis to improve program design and targeting; and

(8) conduct assessments that include the perspectives of women before implementing any new initiatives in support of peace negotiations, transitional justice and accountability, efforts to counter violent extremism, or security sector reform.

#### SEC. 6. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) FOREIGN SERVICE.—The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall ensure that all appropriate personnel (including special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or Foreign Service, and contractors) responsible for or deploying to countries or regions

considered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent conflict obtain training, as appropriate, in the following areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and ensuring meaningful participation by women:

(1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.

(2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

(3) International human rights law and international humanitarian law.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that relevant personnel receive training, as appropriate, in the following areas:

(1) Training in conflict prevention, peace processes, mitigation, resolution, and security initiatives that specifically addresses the importance of meaningful participation by women.

(2) Gender considerations and meaningful participation by women, including training regarding—

(A) international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as relevant; and

(B) protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

(3) Effective strategies and best practices for ensuring meaningful participation by women.

#### SEC. 7. CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall establish guidelines for overseas United States personnel of the Department or the Agency, as the case may be, to consult with stakeholders regarding United States efforts to—

(1) prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict; and

(2) enhance the success of mediation and negotiation processes by ensuring the meaningful participation of women.

(b) FREQUENCY AND SCOPE.—The consultations required under subsection (a) shall take place regularly and include a range and representative sample of stakeholders, including local women, youth, ethnic and religious minorities, and other politically under-represented or marginalized populations.

(c) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State should work with international, regional, national, and local organizations to increase the meaningful participation of women in international peacekeeping operations, and should promote training that provides international peacekeeping personnel with the substantive knowledge and skills needed to ensure effective physical security and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peace building.

#### SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) BRIEFING.—The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Secretary of Defense, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees, not later than one year after the date of the first submission of a strategy required under section 5, on—

(1) existing, enhanced, and newly established training carried out pursuant to section 6; and

(2) the guidelines established for overseas United States personnel to engage in consultations with stakeholders, pursuant to section 7.

(b) REPORT ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY STRATEGY.—Not later than two years after the date of the submission of each strategy required under section 5, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) summarizes and evaluates the implementation of such strategy and the impact

of United States diplomatic efforts and foreign assistance programs, projects, and activities to promote the meaningful participation of women;

(2) describes the nature and extent of the coordination among the relevant Federal departments and agencies on the implementation of such strategy;

(3) outlines the monitoring and evaluation tools, mechanisms, and common indicators to assess progress made on the policy objectives in section 4; and

(4) describes the existing, enhanced, and newly established training carried out pursuant to section 6.

#### SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) STAKEHOLDERS.—The term “stakeholders” means non-governmental and private sector entities engaged in or affected by conflict prevention and stabilization, peace building, protection, security, transition initiatives, humanitarian response, or related efforts, including—

(A) registered or non-registered nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, business or trade associations, labor unions, cooperatives, credit unions, relief or development organizations, community and faith-based organizations, philanthropic foundations, and tribal leaders or structures;

(B) independent media, educational, or research institutions; and

(C) private enterprises, including international development firms, banks, and other financial institutions, particularly small businesses and businesses owned by women or disadvantaged groups.

(3) MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION.—The term “meaningful participation” means safe, genuine, and effective access to, and present and active involvement in the full range of formal or informal processes related to negotiation or mediation with respect to any efforts toward the following:

(A) Conflict prevention.

(B) Resolution or mitigation of, or transition from, violent conflict.

(C) Peacekeeping and peace building.

(D) Post-conflict reconstruction, transition initiatives, elections, and governance.

(E) Humanitarian response and recovery.

(4) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—The term “relevant Federal departments and agencies” means—

(A) the United States Agency for International Development;

(B) the Department of State;

(C) the Department of Defense;

(D) the Department of Homeland Security; and

(E) any other department or agency specified by the President for purposes of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure. This is the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016. It is H.R. 5332.

I want to recognize Representative KRISTI NOEM and Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY for their bipartisan leadership on this measure and, of course, Ranking Member ENGEL for his important work on it.

Earlier this year, the Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing. This was part of our series on women in foreign affairs, where we heard powerful testimony about the importance of including women in peace processes around the world. We heard from those who had been engaged, including the powerful voice of one who had helped bring about the peace process in Northern Ireland.

It may seem obvious that women should have an opportunity to represent their communities as a matter of right—they make up half of the population. And what negotiation, what agreement, can claim to represent women if their participation is barred.

Our hearing also emphasized another fact, and that is why women's participation in peace processes is important if we care about the likelihood of the success of that process. Simply put, when women are at the negotiating table, peace is more likely.

Why would that be? Because research shows that a peace agreement is more likely to be reached—in fact, 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years—when women are involved. When you consider that historically half of all peace agreements fail—and they fail within the first 5 years—women's involvement becomes imperative. Think about the lives saved and the economies maintained by a 35 percent decrease in repeated conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, from Liberia to Northern Ireland, we have watched women play pivotal roles in that effort of reaching out to governments, lobbying governments, impressing the combatants, and pushing politicians to end a conflict.

□ 1245

Women peacemakers often press warring parties to move beyond mere power-sharing agreements that benefit only a small percentage of fighters and, instead, shift that ground, debate over a comprehensive and longer term accord, and reach those accords that benefit the full civilian population as a whole. Once an agreement is reached, these women can play a critical role in building support within the communities, and that is why the legislation before us today is so important. This bill recognizes the fact that it is in our

national interest to promote women's participation in resolving conflicts globally, and it requires a government-wide strategy—an effort—to advance this goal.

In 2011, the administration issued a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. Recently, it published its update, H.R. 5332. This bill, which is the result of our work and the result of the authors' work, builds on this effort by requiring specific goals and benchmarks for women's participation, along with the regular reporting to Congress so as to gauge progress. The bill also requires that appropriate State Department and USAID and Defense Department personnel receive training on how to facilitate women's participation in conflict resolution, in security initiatives, and in efforts to protect civilians from violence and exploitation. Then it pushes this concept and gets them into the effort to do so.

I urge all Members to support its passage.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, November 2, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016, as amended, which has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services. I am writing to confirm that, although there are certain provisions in the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, the committee will forgo action on this bill in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration.

I am glad we agree that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee on Armed Services with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the provisions contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to appoint members of the committee to any conference committee convened to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 5332 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,  
WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, November 3, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any

House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5332 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,  
EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman.

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

I rise in support of this measure.

Again, let me first thank our chairman, ED ROYCE, for helping to advance this bill. I thank the bill's authors: Representative NOEM and Representative SCHAKOWSKY. Representative SCHAKOWSKY, especially, has been focusing for years on the vulnerabilities that face women and girls in conflicts and on the unique role in which women can play in working to build peace. Ms. SCHAKOWSKY has been spending a great deal of her time in representing issues such as the one in this bill. In fact, she was the first one who told me about the bill and what they were doing in terms of putting it together; so I really want to commend her.

It has been nearly 5 years, Mr. Speaker, since the Obama administration unveiled the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. The idea at the center of the strategy is the importance of women in their helping to prevent and resolve conflicts. Thanks to the administration's efforts, the U.S. has worked to include women in conflict prevention, negotiation, and resolution. We have promoted efforts to enhance the physical and economic security of women around the world, and we have sought to break through the barriers that have stopped women from being full participants in peace processes. We haven't taken these steps on a hunch. Research has shown that peace negotiations are more likely to succeed when women have influential positions in the negotiation process.

The bill we are considering would make these policies permanent. It would build on what the Obama administration has accomplished by making sure State Department, USAID, and Pentagon personnel are fully trained on the unique strengths that women bring to conflict prevention and resolution. It would also require annual reporting so that Congress can stay apprised of these efforts. I think making this strategy permanent is absolutely imperative. After all, even though the administration and bipartisan leadership in Congress have seen the value of this approach, we have no idea how future administrations and Presidents and Congresses will view women or if they will fully appreciate how women's participation can make our foreign policies stronger.

I am pleased to support this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM), the author of this bill.

Mrs. NOEM. I, personally, thank the chairman for considering this important bill, and I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for being willing to pursue policies such as this and get them signed into statute. That is the only way we can really be assured that they will continue into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act. I introduced this bill with Representative SCHAKOWSKY to increase and strengthen women's participation in peace negotiations and in conflict prevention globally.

The threats to our national security are troubling, and groups like ISIL are determined to destroy us and our system of values. Russia and China are using economic and military forces to expand their global influences. Middle East instability is raising questions as to how the conflict will impact our global economy and America's national security.

With so much occurring, peace negotiations are ongoing. At least one study showed us that, in conflict resolution processes, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years when women are involved. Women can often encourage healthy choices within the home and can advocate for their children's education and welfare. Both of these help ensure greater stability by giving young people opportunity outside of conflict. Their roles in the global economy also help raise countries out of poverty. By bringing these perspectives to the negotiating table, different priorities often emerge, which make peace negotiations much more likely to address a conflict's underlying causes. We have seen this to be true in places like Northern Ireland, Africa, and Asia.

With all of this in mind, I introduced the Women, Peace, and Security Act, along with Representative SCHAKOWSKY, and with Chairman ROYCE's and Ranking Member ENGEL's help. The bipartisan legislation ensures that women have a seat at the table when peace negotiations are ongoing. It makes sure that there is meaningful congressional oversight. This bill builds on existing U.S. initiatives while requiring a focused and long-term strategy with greater congressional oversight. Our legislation will help introduce further accountability. By doing so, I am hopeful that we can provide even greater sustainability outcomes during future conflict resolutions and peace negotiation processes.

I thank the Speaker for considering H.R. 5332, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who has played such a leading role on these issues.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act.

First, I thank my partner in this effort, Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM, for all of her work in making this day come, as well as to thank Chairman ROYCE, who not only spoke so eloquently about the importance of this legislation, but who helped to make it happen today. I thank Ranking Member ENGEL for his leadership in moving this legislation forward. I am so appreciative.

This is a bipartisan, budget-neutral bill to encourage the participation of women in creating peace. As Congressman ROYCE said, when women are involved in the peace process, negotiations are more likely to end in lasting agreements. He is right in that the International Peace Institute found that a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last for at least 15 years if women participate in drafting the agreement. The study also found that, with a 5 percent increase in women's political participation, a nation is five times less likely to use violence when faced with international crisis or conflict. Promoting the participation of women abroad is in our country's strategic interest as it increases stability and economic prosperity. However, women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace-building efforts around the world.

The Women, Peace, and Security Act is a step toward fixing that imbalance and promoting a more peaceful future. The Women, Peace, and Security Act would, for the very first time, establish women's participation as a permanent element of U.S. foreign policy under congressional oversight. It would also promote greater transparency and accountability in efforts at the Department of Defense and the Department of State. Under the Women, Peace, and Security Act, those departments would report annually to Congress on efforts to actively recruit women and to promote women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution.

The bill would encourage the United States to assist women mediators and negotiators by eliminating barriers to their equal and secure participation in peace processes. In addition, it would institute comprehensive training modules on the protection, rights, and specific needs of women in conflict and would require the administration to evaluate the impact of U.S. foreign assistance on women's meaningful political participation.

The United States plays such a crucial role in promoting peace all over the world. By making women's participation in the peace process a national priority, we will improve national and global security. I am proud to join Congresswoman NOEM in championing this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

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

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

Once again, I thank Chairman ED ROYCE as well as Representatives NOEM and SCHAKOWSKY for their hard work. This is truly bipartisan and is very good for the country.

This is one of those issues that wouldn't have occurred to many people a generation ago or even a decade ago, but thanks to hard work, research, and innovative thinking, we now know how critical it is that women have a seat at the table when we are working to prevent and resolve conflicts. This bill will help ensure that our foreign policy stays on the cutting edge.

I hope, in the future, we will continue to do the hard work that is needed to drive new ideas in foreign policy and to understand the complexities and sensitivities of our interconnected, global landscape. This isn't kid stuff, and we shouldn't treat it lightly; so I am grateful for the commitment of my colleagues that has helped move this bill forward. I urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.  
Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

From Syria to Afghanistan to Sudan, armed conflicts are raging all over this globe, and efforts to negotiate their ends are more important now than ever. We know that when women are included in these discussions that we are much more likely to see an enduring peace. As a witness at our hearing on women's participation explained: including women is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.

The legislation before us today will strengthen U.S. efforts to promote the inclusion of women in peace negotiations in order to create more sustainable agreements and reduce that likelihood that we have seen over and over and over again of a return to conflict.

I take this moment to thank Representatives NOEM and SCHAKOWSKY for their bipartisan work on this measure. I also want to mention a few staff members who have not only worked on our series of focusing month after month on empowering women in negotiations, but on issues beyond that—human trafficking. I especially want to thank Jessica Kelch, Janice Kaguyutan, Renee Munasifi, and Elizabeth Cunningham. I thank them all for their efforts throughout the years on these issues.

As we close, I really urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.  
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5332, 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 ensure that the

United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1538

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN) at 3 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.

#### CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5732) to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5732

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Statement of policy.

#### TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

- Sec. 101. Sanctions with respect to Central Bank of Syria and foreign persons that engage in certain transactions.
- Sec. 102. Prohibitions with respect to the transfer of arms and related materials to Syria.
- Sec. 103. Rule of construction.

#### TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

- Sec. 201. Imposition of sanctions with respect to certain persons who are responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses committed against citizens of Syria or their family members.
- Sec. 202. Imposition of sanctions with respect to the transfer of goods or technologies to Syria that are likely to be used to commit human rights abuses.
- Sec. 203. Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons who hinder humanitarian access.