

home and across the globe, COVID-19 has taught us, like nothing else has, the full costs of a pandemic. It has also shown us just how vulnerable the United States is to disease outbreaks on the other side of the world. A corrupt and opaque health system in China can cause millions of deaths here in America. China's politically-motivated censorship of coronavirus information early on caused the world untold suffering. But a disease like COVID-19 could start anywhere, and if it gets out, it can become a pandemic.

That is why, we must help less prepared countries identify and contain future emerging deadly diseases when they originate, and mitigate their impact before they have a chance to grow to pandemic scale.

When Mr. CONNOLLY and I first introduced this legislation in 2018, COVID-19 didn't exist. However, we realized that Congress needed to support, direct, and provide oversight for ongoing global health security work and that the proper personnel needed to be in place to coordinate our response to an emerging disease threat.

The Global Health Security Act supports each of these goals. First, it gets personnel right. Second, it strengthens Congressional oversight over global health security work. Third, it provides a Congressional endorsement, and detailed guidance for, U.S. efforts to strengthen health systems and pandemic preparedness across the globe.

Witnessing the death toll and the economic devastation that COVID-19 brought, I think all Americans will agree with me that protecting our nation's health from future pandemics must be seen as a national security priority. As the United States comes out of the pandemic, and America returns to normal, we must recommit to leadership on global health security and prepare the world to face the next deadly disease before it becomes a pandemic.

So I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 391, the "Global Health Security Act," important legislation that reaffirms and strengthens the United States' strategic approach to global health security.

This bill directs the President to create the Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council to be overseen by the National Security Advisor, elevating United States' global health security to a national security interest.

It also establishes the permanent position of the United States Coordinator for Global Health Security who will be responsible for the interagency process for responding to global health security emergencies.

Additionally, H.R. 391 creates a multilateral Fund for Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness to support the Global Health Security Agenda and the 70 percent of the world's countries that are unprepared and unable to respond to dangerous public health threats.

Protecting our local and global community from global health threats is imperative as the United States has already exceeded 33 million cases of COVID-19 and over 600,000 deaths.

Almost 3 million of those cases were in Texas and Harris county has the largest number with around 403,000 cases to date.

My district in Houston has suffered the loss of almost 3,000 of its citizens to the pandemic of the over 6,500 fatalities in Harris county alone.

The United States plays a vital leadership role in the international health security domain and the COVID-19 pandemic epitomizes the urgency of global health security.

The Ebola and Zika epidemics in 2013 and 2015 respectively exposed vulnerabilities in the United States' global health strategy, highlighting the need for a designated official to coordinate interagency response to global health security emergencies.

Alongside almost 30 other nations, the United States started the Global Health Security Agenda to address significant global health emergencies and threats.

As such, it is incumbent upon Congress to codify the United States' commitment to addressing global infectious disease threats by requiring the development of a sustainable and comprehensive U.S. global health strategy strengthened by measurable goals and performance metrics.

I proudly support H.R. 391 and the advancement of global health security so we can protect our communities, including my constituents in Houston.

I thank my colleague, Congressman CONNOLLY of Virginia, for championing this bill and persisting in his effort to strengthen the United States global health policy.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 391, the Global Health Security Act of 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 391, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 567) to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 567

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 "Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) terrorist and violent extremist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of

West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(2) poor governance, political and economic marginalization, and lack of accountability for human rights abuses by security forces are drivers of extremism;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of terrorism and violent extremism and build the capacity of partner countries to combat these threats in Africa;

(4) terrorist and violent extremist organizations exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), corruption, and weak governance; and

(5) a comprehensive, coordinated interagency approach is needed to develop an effective strategy to address the security challenges in the Sahel-Maghreb, appropriately allocate resources, de-conflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to assist countries in North and West Africa, and other allies and partners active in those regions, in combating terrorism and violent extremism through a coordinated interagency approach with a consistent strategy that appropriately balances security activities with diplomatic and development efforts to address the political, socioeconomic, governance, and development challenges in North and West Africa that contribute to terrorism and violent extremism.

SEC. 4. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership program, to be known as the "Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) Program" to coordinate all programs, projects, and activities of the United States Government in countries in North and West Africa that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

(A) To improve governance and the capacities of countries in North and West Africa to deliver basic services, particularly with at-risk communities, as a means of countering terrorism and violent extremism by enhancing state legitimacy and authority and countering corruption.

(B) To address the factors that make people and communities vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist and violent extremist organizations, including economic vulnerability and mistrust of government and government security forces, through activities such as—

(i) supporting strategies that increase youth employment opportunities;

(ii) promoting girls' education and women's political participation;

(iii) strengthening local governance and civil society capacity;

(iv) improving government transparency and accountability;

(v) fighting corruption;

(vi) improving access to economic opportunities; and

(vii) other development activities necessary to support community resilience.

(C) To strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including by enhancing the capability of the judicial institutions to independently, transparently, and credibly deter,

investigate, and prosecute acts of terrorism and violent extremism.

(D) To improve the ability of military and law enforcement entities in partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to, and prosecute violent extremist and terrorist activity while respecting human rights, and to cooperate with the United States and other partner countries on counterterrorism and counter-extremism efforts.

(E) To enhance the border security capacity of partner countries, including the ability to monitor, detain, and interdict terrorists.

(F) To identify, monitor, disrupt, and counter the human capital and financing pipelines of terrorism.

(G) To support the free expression and operations of independent, local-language media, particularly in rural areas, while countering the media operations and recruitment propaganda of terrorist and violent extremist organizations.

(2) ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.—Activities carried out under the TSCTP Program shall—

(A) be carried out in countries where the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, determines that there is an adequate level of partner country commitment, and has considered partner country needs, absorptive capacity, sustainability capacity, and efforts of other donors in the sector;

(B) have clearly defined outcomes;

(C) be closely coordinated among United States diplomatic and development missions, United States Africa Command, and relevant participating departments and agencies;

(D) have specific plans with robust indicators to regularly monitor and evaluate outcomes and impact;

(E) complement and enhance efforts to promote democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, and economic growth;

(F) in the case of train and equip programs, complement longer-term security sector institution-building; and

(G) have mechanisms in place to track resources and routinely monitor and evaluate the efficacy of relevant programs.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating activities through the TSCTP Program, the Secretary of State shall also establish a coordination mechanism that ensures periodic consultation with, as appropriate, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media (formerly known as the Broadcasting Board of Governors), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the President.

(4) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity of the TSCTP Program pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a notification to the appropriate congressional committees, in accordance with the requirements of section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1), that includes the following:

(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1).

(B) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(C) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country to effectively implement, benefit from, or utilize the assistance to be provided for the intended purpose.

(D) The anticipated implementation timeline for the activity.

(E) As applicable, a description of the plans to sustain any military or security equipment provided beyond the completion date of such activity, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(b) INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION.—Efforts carried out under this section shall take into account partner country counterterrorism, counter-extremism, and development strategies and, to the extent practicable, shall be aligned with such strategies. Such efforts shall be coordinated with counterterrorism and counter-extremism activities and programs in the areas of defense, diplomacy, and development carried out by other like-minded donors and international organizations in the relevant country.

(c) STRATEGIES.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and other relevant Federal Government agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the following strategies:

(1) A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY FOR THE SAHEL-MAGHREB.—A comprehensive five-year strategy for the Sahel-Maghreb, including details related to whole-of-government efforts in the areas of defense, diplomacy, and development to advance the national security, economic, and humanitarian interests of the United States, including—

(A) efforts to ensure coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, such as the Joint Force of the Group of Five of the Sahel, and with other relevant assistance frameworks;

(B) a public diplomacy strategy and actions to ensure that populations in the Sahel-Maghreb are aware of the development activities of the United States Government, especially in countries with a significant Department of Defense presence or engagement through train and equip programs;

(C) activities aimed at supporting democratic institutions and countering violent extremism with measurable goals and transparent benchmarks;

(D) plans to help each partner country address humanitarian and development needs and to help prevent, respond to, and mitigate intercommunal violence;

(E) a comprehensive plan to support security sector reform in each partner country that includes a detailed section on programs and activities being undertaken by relevant stakeholders and other international actors operating in the sector and that incorporates as appropriate any lessons learned from previous initiatives to improve security sector governance; and

(F) a specific strategy for Mali that includes plans for sustained, high-level diplomatic engagement with stakeholders, including countries in Europe and the Middle East with interests in the Sahel-Maghreb, regional governments, relevant multilateral organizations, signatory groups of the 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, and civil society actors.

(2) A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY FOR TSCTP PROGRAM COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS.—A comprehensive five-year strategy for the TSCTP Program that includes—

(A) a clear statement of the objectives of United States counterterrorism efforts in North and West Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism, including efforts to build military and civilian law enforcement capacity, strengthen the rule of law, promote responsive and accountable governance, and address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism;

(B) a plan for coordinating programs through the TSCTP Program pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including an identification of which agency or bureau of the Department of State, as applicable, will be responsible for leading, coordinating, and conducting monitoring and evaluation for each such program, and the process for enabling the leading agency or bureau to establish standards, compel partners to adhere to those standards, and report results;

(C) a plan to monitor, evaluate, and share data and learning about the TSCTP Program that includes quantifiable baselines, targets, and results in accordance with monitoring and evaluation provisions of sections 3 and 4 of the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-191); and

(D) a plan for ensuring coordination and compliance with related requirements in United States law, including the Global Fragility Act of 2019 (title V of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94)).

(3) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of State shall consult with appropriate congressional committees on progress made towards developing the strategies required in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(d) SUPPORTING MATERIAL IN ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST.—The Secretary of State shall include in the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the President's annual budget request (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) for each fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, a description of the requirements, activities, and planned allocation of amounts requested by the TSCTP Program. This requirement does not apply to activities of the Department of Defense conducted pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code.

(e) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes—

(1) the progress made in meeting the objectives of the strategies required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c), including any lessons learned in carrying out TSCTP Program activities and any recommendations for improving such programs and activities;

(2) the efforts taken to coordinate, de-conflict, and streamline TSCTP Program activities to maximize resource effectiveness;

(3) the extent to which each partner country has demonstrated the ability to absorb the equipment or training provided in the previous year under the TSCTP Program, and where applicable, the ability to maintain and appropriately utilize such equipment;

(4) the extent to which each partner country is investing its own resources to advance the goals described in subsection (a)(1) or is demonstrating a commitment and willingness to cooperate with the United States to advance such goals;

(5) the actions taken by the government of each partner country receiving assistance under the TSCTP Program to combat corruption, improve transparency and accountability, and promote other forms of democratic governance;

(6) the assistance provided in each of the three preceding fiscal years under this program, broken down by partner country, to

include the type, statutory authorization, and purpose of all United States security assistance provided to the country pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip” authorities of the Department of Defense; and

(7) any changes or updates to the Comprehensive Five-Year Strategy for the TSCTP Program required under paragraph (2) of subsection (c) necessitated by the findings in this annual report.

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENT RELATED TO AUDIT OF BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS MONITORING AND COORDINATION OF THE TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 120 days thereafter until all 13 recommendations in the September 2020 Department of State Office of Inspector General audit entitled “Audit of the Department of State Bureau of African Affairs Monitoring and Coordination of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program” (AUD-MERO-20-42) are closed or until the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is earlier, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that identifies—

(1) which of the 13 recommendations in AUD-MERO-20-42 have not been closed;

(2) a description of progress made since the last report toward closing each recommendation identified under paragraph (1);

(3) additional resources needed, including assessment of staffing capacity, if any, to complete action required to close each recommendation identified under paragraph (1); and

(4) the anticipated timeline for completion of action required to close each recommendation identified under paragraph (1), including application of all recommendations into all existing security assistance programs managed by the Department of State under the TSCTP Program.

(g) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall report to Congress plans for conducting a written review of a representative sample of each of the security assistance programs administered by the Bureau of African Affairs to identify potential waste, fraud, abuse, inefficiencies, or deficiencies. The review shall include an analysis of staff capacity, including human resource needs, available resources, procedural guidance, and monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure the Bureau of African Affairs is managing programs efficiently and effectively.

(h) FORM.—The strategies required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c) and the reports required under subsections (e), (f), and (g) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(i) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. 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. 567, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 567, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2021, from my good friend and colleague, the ranking member, Mr. McCAUL. I thank Mr. McCAUL for working in the spirit of bipartisanship and making sure that we get this bill to the floor. This bill authorizes and supports the continuation of a viable counterterrorism program with our allies and partners.

First launched in 2005, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program is a valuable initiative through which the State Department works with partner countries in North Africa and the Sahel to build more responsive and resilient counterterrorism strategies to better counter threats facing the region and our allies.

Those nations include Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tunisia.

As the nature of the terrorist threat in North Africa evolves and permeates across borders in remote geographies, close coordination and a regional approach is critical. One of the United States’ strongest tools in its arsenal is its ability to galvanize collective action, employing U.S.-led multilateral initiatives for counterterrorism purposes. The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program is a strong example of that multilateral capacity. We cannot prevent or respond to terrorism by being American alone or America only. It must be America forward, leading partners to action that safeguards our security interests.

This bill authorizes the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program and supports its continuation while requiring a clear, multiyear strategy. It also requires a plan for the thorough monitoring and evaluation of programming to ensure funds are spent wisely, progress is assessed, and programmatic actions are results-oriented. By doing so, we can ensure an effective, regional approach to counterterrorism in North Africa and the Sahel.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my friend and colleague, Ranking Member McCAUL, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the chairman for working with

me to bring this to the floor. We passed this the last Congress, and I hope the Senate will pay attention, as this is a very important issue.

In the last year alone, ISIS- and al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist attacks in the Sahel have more than doubled, killing over 4,000 people.

Just two weeks ago, at least 130 civilians were killed in Burkina Faso in an attack reportedly carried out by child soldiers. This was the worst attack in that country in years.

As we speak, ISIS and al-Qaida affiliates are growing in strength, they are increasing in size, they are becoming more violent, and they are pushing further south into coastal West Africa. Innocent civilians are paying the price.

A military solution alone will not stabilize the Sahel. Mali has experienced two coups in a year. This is unacceptable and underscores the importance of U.S. engagement, along with our partners, to address governance challenges in the region.

Without adequate attention to the root causes of extremism, violence, and community grievances, we will never meaningfully address security challenges in the Sahel.

I want to thank my colleague, Representative KEATING, for his support of this legislation as well as the chairman. This bill will pass again. It is time for the Senate to pass it and make it into law.

This bill mandates the State Department, the Defense Department, and USAID to coordinate their efforts in the region, very similar to the Global Fragility Act we passed and signed into law.

This will help balance our diplomatic, defense, and development efforts to combat instability and terrorist activity in the Sahel.

The program also works with countries such as Chad, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria to build their capacity to conduct counterterrorism operations, prevent the spread of violent extremism, and strengthen the rule of law.

We have learned firsthand that terrorists left unchecked and allowed to exploit safe havens will pose great threats to the United States’ national security interest.

The situation in the region is dire, and we cannot afford to squander critical taxpayer resources, if they are not achieving results. This really provides for congressional oversight as well of the State Department and the Department of Defense, in terms of how they are monitoring this important program.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, again, and Representative

KEATING for their work. As we have seen around the world, COVID-19 has made an already dire situation worse in this region.

As humanitarian needs are rising, forced displacement has increased and local communities are becoming more vulnerable.

In June, the U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations testified to the U.N. Security Council that terrorist groups are trying to capitalize on the pandemic to undermine and destabilize governments in the Sahel.

This cannot wait. I urge the administration to work with international partners to increase our engagement in the region. It is imperative we address the underlying drivers of extremism in order to truly combat rising terrorist activities.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, effective counterterrorism strategies across North Africa and the Sahel are critical to U.S. security. Terrorist attacks orchestrated by ISIS and al-Qaida-affiliated groups require a coordinated multilateral response, led by the United States in close partnership with nations in the region. A more responsive and resilient counterterrorism strategy in North Africa and the Sahel is critical and crucial to addressing the threats that we face today, and this bill ensures that this program is the most effective it can be in addressing such threats.

I thank Representative MCCAUL and Representative KEATING for bringing this bill forward, I urge the Senate to get it done also, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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 New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 567, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3261) to repeal the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3261

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

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION.

The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is hereby repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. 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. 3261.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3261, to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, authored by Representative SPANBERGER.

Less than two weeks ago, this body voted for a bill to repeal the 2002 AUMF, nearly two decades after it was originally passed. By not repealing an AUMF and allowing it to remain long after it has served its purpose, we open the door for future administrations of either party to abuse that authority and stretch the authorization far beyond its original purpose.

□ 1530

By failing to remove outdated authorities, Congress cedes its Article I authority to the executive branch. This is contrary to the design of our Constitution, Mr. Speaker, which gives Congress the power to make decisions on matters of war and peace.

Today, we debate a bill that would repeal an Authorization for Use of Military Force older than the 2002 AUMF. H.R. 3261 repeals the 1991 AUMF that authorized the use of the United States Armed Forces pursuant to the United Nations Security Council resolution, which was issued in the wake of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. Yet, the 1991 AUMF remains in statute, in the United States Code, even though our military liberated Kuwait and completed its limited mission there three decades ago.

By voting this legislation out of the House, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to reclaiming our authority over war powers. One of the hardest decisions any of us can make as Members of Congress is whether to send the brave men and women of our armed services into conflict. While it is a difficult decision, it does not relinquish us of that responsibility.

I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) for authoring this important legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me first say I support this bill to repeal the 1991 Authorization for Use of Military Force for the first Gulf war. That law provided authority to use our military to enforce specific United Nations resolutions opposing Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

With the success of Operation Desert Storm, the Iraqi troops were expelled from Kuwait, and combat operations concluded in early 1991, more than 30 years ago.

The specific point of this law was accomplished. Therefore, there is no reason to leave it on the books.

It is, in that sense, very different from the 2002 Iraq AUMF we voted on before. That authority has been used consistently since its enactment to address terrorist threats in and emanating from Iraq and was most recently used—not that authority—but we saw a strike from the President against Shia militia proxies in Iraq and Syria. Those threats continue to this day. Unfortunately, not all can be targeted using the 2001 AUMF.

Real war powers reform means consulting with our military commanders and intelligence experts. It means updating Article I authorities so the President can use them to address the deadly terrorists who threaten Americans today.

It does not mean repealing old AUMFs without replacing them, although for this one, we don't need to. It does not mean telling the President just to rely on Article II powers when there is no consensus about their reach.

This law, which is tied to U.N. resolutions about the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, legally cannot be used to launch new military engagements in the 21st century.

I support this repeal. I thank Ms. SPANBERGER for bringing this. This is an example of how we can work together to clean up these old AUMFs and hopefully move forward with an updated AUMF.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER), a valued member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of repealing the 1991 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Today, we have another opportunity to demonstrate that Congress is serious about reclaiming congressional war powers and serious about representing the servicemembers and veterans who have served our country. Too often, they have served under authorities that were signed into law decades previously.