

That is why this resolution emphasizes that it is U.S. policy to prevent a nuclear armed Iran, as President Biden himself has made clear, and to support our partners and allies like Israel in the face of such an existential threat. Sending a clear message that Iran cannot acquire a nuclear weapon is about deterring Iran, not seeking confrontation or war with them.

Colleagues on both sides of the aisle should agree that it is absolutely in our interest to restrain Iran's nuclear ambitions, and it is in the interest of a more stable, secure, and peaceful region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of the resolution.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the right to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), who is an esteemed member of our Foreign Affairs Committee and ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I have to rise in opposition to H. Res. 559.

I am proud to represent San Antonio, Texas, known as Military City, USA, which is home to one of the largest concentrations of military bases in the United States.

Every year tens of thousands of young men and women pass through my city on their way to military theaters around the world. Their lives are sacred, and Congress needs to be careful about how our decisions can put them in harm's way.

While this is a nonbinding resolution, it would speak for the House of Representatives without meaningfully engaging with the broad range of tools at our disposal to prevent Iranian proliferation.

I strongly oppose Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon. That is why I supported President Obama's efforts to constrain Iran's nuclear program through the JCPOA and why I opposed Donald Trump's decision to release Iran from the restrictions on its nuclear program by violating and then withdrawing from the JCPOA.

Nonetheless, this resolution, in saying the United States must use "all means necessary" to prevent Iran from pursuing a nuclear weapon goes too far.

Do we support sending U.S. forces, ground troops, into Iran to stop their nuclear program?

What about using a nuclear weapon ourselves?

That is what the language of this resolution would support or allow. This isn't just leaving all our options on the table. This resolution endorses every option.

In recent years, Congress has had important, bipartisan conversations about reclaiming our constitutional authority over the use of military force. If the Congress is going to endorse the use of force, even in a non-

binding resolution, then we need a more deliberate debate before going forward.

This resolution also commits the United States to endorse the actions of any of our partners and allies to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Would we support Saudi Arabia or the UAE if they were to unilaterally strike Iran putting hundreds of U.S. forces stationed in the Persian Gulf at risk?

This resolution commits to unconditionally supporting their "freedom of action."

While I strongly oppose Iran's nuclear program, Mr. Speaker, the language we are voting on today goes too far, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 559 is an important restatement of administration policy. The Iranian regime should never ever be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, we have seen repeatedly through history that weakness invites aggression. We certainly saw that in World War II with Hitler's aggression. Our adversaries, Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea are increasingly working together to upend the global balance of power. They are enabling each other's aggression against the United States and our allies.

This body has a responsibility to project strength and protect the American people. We will speak with one voice as we deliver a clear message that Iran's nuclear escalation must stop, that a nuclear Iran is simply unacceptable, and that the United States will never permit a nuclear Iran to exist.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important resolution, which is an important voice of the United States of America through its Representatives, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 559.

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. McCAUL. 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.

HAMAS AND OTHER PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUPS INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 340) to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for terrorist organizations, including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 340

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 "Hamas and Other Palestinian Terrorist Groups International Financing Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to prevent Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof from accessing its international support networks; and

(2) to oppose Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof from using goods, including medicine and dual use items, to smuggle weapons and other materials to further acts of terrorism, including against Israel.

SEC. 3. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS SUPPORTING ACTS OF TERRORISM OR ENGAGING IN SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTIONS WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF HAMAS, PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD AND OTHER PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each foreign person that the President determines, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, engages in an activity described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign person engages in an activity described in this subsection if the foreign person knowingly—

(1) assists in sponsoring or providing significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or other services to enable, acts of terrorism; or

(2) engages, directly or indirectly, in a significant transaction with—

(A) a senior member of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof; or

(B) a senior member of a foreign terrorist organization designated pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) that is responsible for providing, directly or indirectly, support to Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(d) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulations promulgated to carry out this section to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(e) **IMPLEMENTATION; REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of carrying out this section.

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall issue regulations or other guidance as may be necessary for the implementation of this section.

(f) **WAIVER.**—The President may waive, on a case-by-case basis and for a period of not more than 180 days, the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person only if, not later than 15 days prior to the date on which the waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

(g) **HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTION.**—The President may waive the application of any provision of this section if the President certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such a waiver is vital to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and is consistent with the national security interests of the United States 15 days prior to the waiver taking effect.

(h) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The authority to impose sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person is in addition to the authority to impose sanctions under any other provision of law with respect to a foreign person that directly or indirectly supports acts of international terrorism.

SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN STATES PROVIDING SUPPORT TO HAMAS, PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD AND OTHER PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the measures described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign state if the President determines that the foreign state, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, engages in an activity described in subsection (b).

(b) **ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.**—A foreign state engages in an activity described in this subsection if the foreign state knowingly—

(1) provides significant material or financial support for acts of international terrorism, pursuant to—

(A) section 1754(c) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A));

(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

(D) any other provision of law;

(2) provides significant material support to Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof; or

(3) engages in a significant transaction that materially contributes, directly or indirectly, to the terrorist activities of Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof.

(c) **MEASURES DESCRIBED.**—The measures described in this subsection with respect to a foreign state are the following:

(1) The President shall suspend, for a period of at least 1 year, United States assistance to the foreign state.

(2) The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director to each appropriate international financial institution to oppose, and vote against, for a period of 1 year, the extension by such institution of any loan or financial or technical assistance to the government of the foreign state.

(3) The President shall prohibit the export of any item on the United States Munitions List (established pursuant to section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778)) or the Commerce Control List set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to the foreign state for a period of 1 year.

(d) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulations promulgated to carry out this section to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(e) **WAIVER.**—The President may waive, on a case-by-case basis and for a period of not more than 180 days, the application of measures under this section with respect to a foreign state only if, not later than 15 days prior to the date on which the waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

(f) **IMPLEMENTATION; REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of carrying out this section.

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall issue regulations or other guidance as may be necessary for the implementation of this section.

(g) **ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS.**—

(1) **STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS.**—The President may exempt the application of measures under this section with respect to a foreign state if the application of such measures would prevent the United States from meeting the terms of any status of forces agreement to which the United States is a party.

(2) **AUTHORIZED INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—Measures under this section shall not apply with respect to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(3) **HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTION.**—The President may waive the application of any provision of this section if the President certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such a waiver is vital to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and is consistent with the national security interests of the United States 15 days prior to the waiver taking effect.

(h) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The authority to impose measures under this section with respect to a foreign state is in addition to the authority to impose measures under any other provision of law with respect to foreign states that directly or indirectly support acts of international terrorism.

SEC. 5. REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES TO DISRUPT GLOBAL FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES OF HAMAS, PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD, AL-AQSA MARTYRS BRIGADE, THE LION'S DEN OR ANY AFFILIATE OR SUCCESSOR THEREOF.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the disposition of the assets and activities of Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof related to fundraising, financing, and money laundering worldwide;

(2) a list of foreign states that knowingly providing material, financial, or technical support for, or goods or services to Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof;

(3) a list of foreign states in which Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof conducts significant fundraising, financing, or money laundering activities;

(4) a list of foreign states from which Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliate or successor thereof knowingly engaged in the transfer of surveillance equipment, electronic monitoring equipment, or other means to inhibit communication or the free flow of information in Gaza; and

(5) with respect to each foreign state listed in paragraph (2), (3), or (4)—

(A) a description of the steps the foreign state identified is taking adequate measures to restrict financial flows to Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, or any affiliates or successors thereof; and

(B) in the case of a foreign state failing to take adequate measures to restrict financial flows to Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den or any other designated entity engaged in significant act of terrorism threatening the peace and security of Israel—

(i) an assessment of the reasons that government is not taking adequate measures to restrict financial flows to those entities; and

(ii) a description of measures being taken by the United States Government to encourage the foreign state to restrict financial flows to those entities; and

(b) **FORM.**—Each report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the greatest extent possible, and may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 6. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) **GOOD DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

SEC. 7. TERMINATION.

This Act shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) Hamas or any successor or affiliate thereof is no longer designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section

219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

(B) Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, and any successor or affiliate thereof are no longer subject to sanctions pursuant to—

(i) Executive Order No. 12947 (January 23, 1995; relating to prohibiting transactions with terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process); and

(ii) Executive Order No. 13224 (September 23, 2001; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism); and

(C) Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Lion's Den, and any successor or affiliate thereof meet the criteria described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 9 of the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 (22 U.S.C. 2378b note).

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACT OF TERRORISM.—The term “act of terrorism” means an activity that—

(A) involves a violent act or an act dangerous to human life, property, or infrastructure; and

(B) appears to be intended to—

(i) intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

(ii) influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

(iii) affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, kidnapping, or hostage-taking.

(2) ADMITTED.—The term “admitted” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(13)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(13)(A)).

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

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(4) FOREIGN STATE.—The term “foreign state” has the meaning given such term in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code.

(5) HUMANITARIAN AID.—The term “humanitarian aid” means food, medicine, and medical supplies.

(6) MATERIAL SUPPORT.—The term “material support” has the meaning given the term “material support or resources” in section 2339A of title 18, United States Code.

(7) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, over 2,000 Hamas terrorists invaded Israel and brutally murdered over 1,400 people. The images from these gruesome attacks will haunt us all for eternity.

There were beheadings, families were burned alive, and women were raped and slaughtered, one of whom was dragged through the streets of Gaza.

I was in one of the kibbutzim right on the border of Gaza last year meeting with members of the community. I saw their daycare center and the children who were there. That very same kibbutz, Mr. Speaker, was overrun by 70 Hamas terrorists. Many of the residents whom I met were slaughtered, but most viciously, the babies and the children I visited in the daycare center were slaughtered, shot to death, beheaded, and burned alive. Reports are that a pregnant woman was forced to watch as they cut her baby out of her womb, killing her child before they killed her.

□ 1430

On December 7, 1941, in response to the bombing at Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt said it was “a date which will live in infamy.” So, too, will October 7, 2023.

The United States must stand resolute and use every tool at our disposal to support our friend and ally, Israel. Israel has been pulled into a war with the Iran-backed terrorist Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic jihad, who have launched more than 8,000 rockets at Israel since this war started.

We know that Iran has historically provided around \$100 million a year in support to Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic jihad, and other Palestinian terrorist groups. Hamas also generates hundreds of millions of dollars every year from its secret international investment portfolio. These accounts help fund Hamas' terrorist infrastructure. They pay for its elaborate 500-mile tunnel network—500 miles of tunnel—and for the rockets being fired into Israel.

This bill takes aim at Iran's support for Hamas and makes it clear that banks cannot facilitate the toxic relationship between the largest state sponsor of terror and its proxies. Unfortunately, the media seems to have forgotten that for years Hamas has profited off innocent people, prioritizing rocket production over supporting the basic needs of their own people, exacerbating suffering.

I thank my colleague, Mr. MAST, who also served in the IDF with distinction, for introducing this important piece of legislation. We need every tool at our disposal to restrict Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists' access to financing and hold the countries enabling them to account.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, February 9, 2023.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 340, the Hamas International Financing Prevention Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

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

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 340 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 340, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since its inception, Hamas has been a military and political entity dedicated to the destruction of Israel.

Rather than addressing the needs of the Palestinian people, Hamas has furthered their suffering and has destabilized the Gaza Strip. Rather than building schools, industries, and public infrastructure to lift up their own people, Hamas has built a terrorist army and a network of sophisticated attack tunnels to destroy Israel and kill Jews. The group has terrorized its people rather than govern, using Palestinian civilians as human shields and has terrorized its own population and that of Israel.

Since 2007, when Hamas violently seized governing control of the Gaza Strip, it has launched tens of thousands of rockets targeting Israeli cities and towns from hospitals, schools, and Palestinian neighborhoods in Gaza. It has conducted countless terrorist attacks, engaged in hostage taking, and tortured its own, the Palestinian people.

The State Department first designated Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997. The EU and other Western countries have done the same. Passage of this legislation today will provide more tools for this and future administrations to hold Hamas accountable for its terrorism and brutality.

While Hamas leaders don't have financial assets in the U.S., new sanctions have been unveiled by the Biden administration in recent days that will increase pressure on some of the countries that host them. With this legislation before us, the United States will now be able to penalize third parties who provide assistance to Hamas.

While we desire to put more pressure on Hamas, we want to make certain

that American and partner NGOs and governments are still able to assist the people of Gaza and their humanitarian needs. The waiver present in this legislation, while strict, will allow that assistance to continue.

Hamas' reign of terror must end. It is our only chance at a lasting peace.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability and the author of this bill.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and the submariner up front. That is a special kind of service, no doubt about it. I thank the chairman for his work on this legislation, for helping to bring it to the floor, and for his work in helping to make sure that in this body when those of us who are in here say never again in support of Israel and the Jewish state, that it is something that we are doing everything possible to make sure that never again is the truth.

You might ask what can this bill do in support of never again, and why. The "why" on it is very simple because October 7 didn't happen for free. October 7 didn't happen without planning. October 7 didn't happen without delivery of arms from multiple nations. October 7 didn't happen without the intelligence from multiple nations, non-government organizations, and individuals. This happened as a result of a great deal of all of the above.

This bill is specifically about sanctions, about making sure that we can get to the individuals, the states, the government agencies, the nongovernment agencies, or the companies that enabled October 7 to happen. It is about making sure that we cut off the material support, whether that is money or equipment or something that we might label here in Washington as a dual-use item, from making it to the Gaza Strip or the West Bank or into the hands of Hezbollah or somewhere else; from making sure that we cut off the technological support, whether it is intelligence or, literally, software or hardware or arms of propaganda; whether we are cutting off the financial support, the terror financing, the transactions, those that are engaging with the literal perpetrators of terrorism, doing it by blocking and freezing assets and funds, providing travel restrictions, export restrictions, and financial sanctions so that they can't use our banks or financial institutions. The list goes on.

That is the work that has to be done within these walls to make sure that we can say never again. That is the work that we can do in here to make sure that October 7 doesn't happen again, and it is the work that we have to do in passing this bill to make sure that we do everything possible to prevent the kind of terrorism, the barbaric acts that the chairman spoke so eloquently and so vividly about.

It is in that vein that I ask my colleagues to rise in support of this bill. Join us, vote unanimously in support of this bill.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), my dear friend and the vice ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak in support of H.R. 340, the Hamas International Financing Prevention Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives BRIAN MAST and JOSH GOTTHEIMER to impose sanctions on the terrorist group Hamas.

On October 7, we woke in horror to find Hamas' brutal and despicable terrorist attacks, firing rockets at innocent civilians, storming the Israeli border, invading Israel, going house to house, murdering babies, executing parents in front of their children, massacring 260 young people at a music festival. Hamas killed 31 U.S. citizens and more than 1,400 Israelis while taking hundreds of innocent people hostage in Gaza, including babies and toddlers.

Hamas terrorists are not militants. They are not freedom fighters. They are not a civil resistance movement. They are a brutal foreign terrorist organization which is dedicated to the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews.

It is no secret that this is their goal. It is plainly stated in Hamas' founding charter. It is also important to recognize that Hamas has no regard for the lives of innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza, the very people they rule over, who suffer under Hamas. Let there be no mistake. Hamas bears responsibility for their pain as well.

All countries around the world should join the U.S. in demanding Hamas immediately release all the hostages currently held in Gaza. I am grateful that the Biden administration has imposed additional sanctions on senior Hamas officials and their financial backers. We need to continue to bring pressure to bear on Hamas and cut off their flow of resources.

That is why this legislation would impose sanctions on foreign entities that provide material and financial support to Hamas and Islamic jihad, while also providing for important humanitarian exemptions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their work on this bill, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), an esteemed member of our Foreign Affairs Committee and the ranking member on the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 340. I unequivocally condemn Hamas' attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,400 innocent people and the kid-

napping of hundreds of hostages, including American citizens.

The United States has rightly designated Hamas as a terrorist organization since 1997, and I have fully supported sanctions on Hamas when they have come before the House in the past. However, there is a distinction between Hamas and the innocent Palestinians it holds captive in Gaza, and we must legislate with that understanding. Our efforts to hold Hamas accountable must not come at the expense of those innocent civilians.

As originally written, this bill included a broad humanitarian exemption that would have protected the provision of food, medicine, and other life-saving supplies into Gaza. The State Department and the Treasury both supported that exemption, which aligned with the Biden administration's goals to weaken Hamas without causing undue civilian suffering and deaths.

Unfortunately, the primary sponsor of H.R. 340 offered an amendment during committee markup that removed that exemption, replacing it with a case-by-case waiver that will impede the delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

At times here, we need to speculate about the motivations behind specific legislation and legislative decisions. In this case, however, it is part of the committee record. The bill's sponsor said that he believes "any assistance should be slowed down" and argued that no one can distinguish between innocent Palestinians and Hamas.

The situation in Gaza is incredibly dire and becoming more so by the day, which is why President Biden has worked to secure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza and requested funding to support those efforts. The decision to intentionally remove this provision was a choice to hurt people in Gaza who are not responsible for this conflict.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the humanitarian exemption that was originally in this bill was restored, I would fully support H.R. 340, but I cannot in good faith support a bill that amounts to intentional collective punishment against the people of Gaza, nearly half of whom are children. For this reason, I urge the House to vote "no."

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman McCAUL, and I certainly thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for offering this important bill, H.R. 340, the Hamas International Financing Prevention Act.

In addition to my work on the Foreign Affairs Committee, I serve on the

House Financial Services Committee. Over the years that I have been in Congress, I have been on the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing and the Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance. Today, once again, we come to this House floor to tackle a new form of illicit finance.

It was shocking to a lot of people in America to read in *The Wall Street Journal* that Hamas is now using digital assets in order to raise funds and move money around. Just as we tackle illicit charitable use, illicit cash use, illicit bank use, this committee is dedicated to tackling this new form of escaping our anti-money laundering Bank Secrecy Act laws in order to fund terror.

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I expect all of my colleagues to be together, working together to pass this bill and, in fact, standing up against this new form of terror finance by using digital assets.

We look forward to working on that issue in both the Financial Services Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I congratulate the gentleman from Florida for his leadership.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I will address some of the comments that were brought up about the bill and exemptions, and exemptions that do not exist. I think it is important to recognize there are some exemptions. There are exemptions for food and medicine.

Those exemptions exist, but there are not exemptions for pieces of equipment that might be considered dual-use items that were used to knock over the barricades, the fences, and the barriers that were preventing the Palestinian terrorists from making it into Israel.

There are not exemptions to allow those kinds of pieces of equipment that might come in under agricultural exemptions in this bill. Why? Because they can be dual-use items. That is a reason to not have them.

When we look at this as a whole, I encourage the other side to not so lightly throw around the idea of innocent Palestinian civilians, as is frequently said. I don't think we would so lightly throw around the term "innocent Nazi civilians" during World War II.

We are going to speak later about a bill related to Palestinian education and the fact that in their schools, schools run by the Palestinian Authority, not Hamas, not Palestinian Islamic Jihad, not al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, not Lions' Den, not any of the other groups run by the Palestinian Authority, they have anti-Semitic teachings that they put within their own schools.

The list goes on and on of the examples we could give of what somebody

might call a rank-and-file Gazan or a rank-and-file person in the West Bank or just a Palestinian that maybe doesn't fall under that name of Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad but by any classical definition would absolutely be considered a terrorist, somebody that in the last couple of weeks had been conducting kidnappings, murders, brutality that is nearly unspeakable.

As we look at this and what kind of exemptions should and should not exist, I ask that it be looked at through that lens, that there is not this far stretch to say there are very few innocent Palestinian civilians.

I haven't seen the videos of the innocent Palestinian civilians who were out there trying to protect the Israelis, who were out there trying to stop the attacks and trying to get the captives returned instead of being taken into the tunnel systems.

We need to look at that as well when we think about the equipment, whether agricultural or otherwise, that might be put in the hands of those terrorists.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 340 is an important effort to strengthen sanctions on Hamas, a genocidal terrorist organization that showed its true intent and core evil on October 7, when it crossed over a border and savagely massacred 1,400 people, took more than 240 people hostage, wounded thousands of others, and continues its assault, as it is written in its charter, to destroy the State of Israel and to murder Jews.

I will remind my colleagues, if I can, that what we saw on October 7 was the worst day for the murder of Jews since the Holocaust, but I also believe it is important that, unless we are talking about Nazis and the Holocaust, we are very careful and avoid making comparisons.

I also think it is important that as Israel prosecutes its war against Hamas—and it is against Hamas, not against the Palestinian people—we recognize the humanity of the civilians, all the civilians who are caught in the middle of this horrific war.

Hamas is a terrorist organization and must be eliminated from being a threat to Israel, an oppressor of its people, and in control of Gaza. That is why this legislation is so critically important. We have to see the humanity of people.

I am a co-chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Abraham Accords Caucus. I have committed my life to seeking and pursuing peace for Israel and its neighbors. The Abraham Accords Caucus recognizes for the first time that both Arabs and Jews belong to the same land and records in its essence and in its being that by embracing each other, Arabs and Jews cannot only live together but lift each other up and lift up the future for the same land.

Hamas does not see that future. Hamas is a terrorist organization. It is a threat to peace, a threat to Israel, a threat to democracy.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCHNEIDER for his strong, passionate support, as well as Ms. MANNING and the author, Mr. MAST.

Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman makes a great argument. Hamas stands between the expansion of the Abraham Accords and the destruction of the Abraham Accords. They are the ones standing between peace in the Middle East and war, a war that they provoked, a war that was barbaric against our friend and ally, Israel. It is impossible to overstate just how violent and horrific the terrorist attacks in Israel were. I have seen it. Don't tell me it didn't happen because it is real.

We can't underestimate the determination of Hamas itself. Their covenant explicitly states: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."

I don't think it can be any more clear about their intent. Hamas has told us who they are and what they plan to do. We need to act here in Congress, and we need to act now.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 340, 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. McCAUL. 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.

STOP HARBORING IRANIAN PETROLEUM ACT

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3774) to impose additional sanctions with respect to the importation or facilitation of the importation of petroleum products from Iran, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3774

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 "Stop Harboring Iranian Petroleum Act" or the "SHIP Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to deny Iran the ability, by limiting Iran's export of petroleum and petroleum products, to—