

□ 1414

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 126.

IRAN SANCTIONS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6015) to require the President to prevent the abuse of financial sanctions exemptions by Iran, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 13, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 127]

YEAS—408

Adams	Carson	Diaz-Balart
Aderholt	Carter (GA)	Dingell
Aguilar	Carter (LA)	Doggett
Alford	Carter (TX)	Donalds
Allen	Carterwright	Duarte
Allred	Case	Duncan
Amo	Casten	Dunn (FL)
Amodei	Castor (FL)	Edwards
Armstrong	Castro (TX)	Ellzey
Arrington	Chavez-DeRemer	Emmer
Auchincloss	Cherfilus-	Escobar
Babin	McCormick	Eshoo
Bacon	Chu	Españolat
Baird	Ciscomani	Estes
Balderson	Clark (MA)	Evans
Balint	Clarke (NY)	Ezell
Banks	Cleaver	Fallon
Barr	Cline	Feenstra
Bean (FL)	Cloud	Ferguson
Beatty	Clyburn	Finstad
Bentz	Clyde	Fischbach
Bera	Cohen	Fitzgerald
Bergman	Cole	Fitzpatrick
Beyer	Collins	Fleischmann
Bice	Comer	Fletcher
Biggs	Connolly	Flood
Billirakis	Correa	Foster
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Foushee
Bishop (NC)	Courtney	Fox
Blumenauer	Craig	Frankel, Lois
Blunt Rochester	Crane	Franklin, Scott
Boebert	Crawford	Frost
Bonamici	Crenshaw	Fry
Bost	Crockett	Fulcher
Boyle (PA)	Crow	Gaetz
Brecheen	Cuellar	Gallagher
Brown	Curtis	Gallego
Brownley	D'Esposito	Garamendi
Buchanan	Davidson	Garbarino
Bucshon	Davis (IL)	Garcia (TX)
Budzinski	Davis (NC)	Garcia, Mike
Burchett	De La Cruz	Garcia, Robert
Burgess	Dean (PA)	Jimenez
Burlison	DeGette	Golden (ME)
Calvert	DeLauro	Goldman (NY)
Cammack	DelBene	Gomez
Carbajal	Deluzio	Gonzales, Tony
Cárdenas	DeSaulnier	Gonzalez,
Carey	DesJarlais	Vicente
Carl		Good (VA)

Gooden (TX)	Mace	Sánchez
Gosar	Magaziner	Sarbanes
Gottheimer	Malliotakis	Scalise
Graves (LA)	Maloy	Scanlon
Graves (MO)	Mann	Schakowsky
Green (TN)	Manning	Schiff
Green, Al (TX)	Mast	Schneider
Greene (GA)	Matsui	Scholten
Griffith	McBath	Schrier
Grothman	McCaul	Schweikert
Guest	McClellan	Scott (VA)
Guthrie	McClintock	Scott, Austin
Hageman	McCollum	Scott, David
Harder (CA)	McCormick	Self
Harris	McGarvey	Sessions
Harshbarger	McGovern	Sewell
Hayes	McHenry	Sherman
Hern	Meeks	Sherrill
Higgins (LA)	Menendez	Simpson
Hill	Meng	Slotkin
Himes	Meuser	Smith (MO)
Hinson	Mfume	Smith (NE)
Horsford	Miller (IL)	Smith (NJ)
Houchin	Miller (OH)	Smith (WA)
Houlahan	Miller (WV)	Smucker
Hoyer	Miller-Meeks	Sorensen
Hoyle (OR)	Mills	Soto
Hudson	Molinaro	Spanberger
Huffman	Moolenaar	Spartz
Huizenga	Mooney	Stansbury
Hunt	Moore (AL)	Stanton
Issa	Moore (UT)	Stauber
Ivey	Moore (WI)	Steel
Jackson (IL)	Moran	Stefanik
Jackson (NC)	Morelle	Steil
Jackson (TX)	Moskowitz	Steube
Jackson Lee	Moulton	Stevens
Jacobs	Mrvan	Strickland
James	Mullin	Strong
Jeffries	Murphy	Suozzi
Johnson (GA)	Nadler	Swalwell
Johnson (LA)	Napolitano	Sykes
Johnson (SD)	Neal	Takano
Jordan	Neguse	Tenney
Joyce (OH)	Nehls	Thanedar
Joyce (PA)	Newhouse	Thompson (CA)
Kamlager-Dove	Nickel	Thompson (MS)
Kaptur	Norcross	Thompson (PA)
Kean (NJ)	Norman	Tiffany
Keating	Nunn (IA)	Timmons
Kelly (IL)	Obernalte	Titus
Kelly (MS)	Ogles	Tokuda
Kelly (PA)	Owens	Tonko
Khanna	Pallone	Torres (CA)
Kiggans (VA)	Palmer	Torres (NY)
Kildee	Panetta	Trahan
Kiley	Pappas	Trone
Kilmer	Fascrell	Turner
Kim (CA)	Pelosi	Underwood
Kim (NJ)	Peltola	Valadao
Krishnamoorthi	Pence	Van Drew
Kuster	Perez	Van Dуйne
Kustoff	Perry	Van Orden
LaHood	Pettersen	Vargas
LaLota	Pfluger	Vasquez
LaMalfa	Phillips	Veasey
Lamborn	Pingree	Velázquez
Landsman	Pocan	Wagner
Langworthy	Porter	Walberg
Larsen (WA)	Posey	Waltz
Larson (CT)	Quigley	Wasserman
Latta	Raskin	Schultz
LaTurner	Reschenthaler	Waters
Lawler	Rodgers (WA)	Watson Coleman
Lee (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Webster (FL)
Lee (NV)	Rogers (KY)	Wenstrup
Leger Fernandez	Rose	Westerman
Lesko	Rosendale	Wexton
Letlow	Ross	Wild
Levin	Rouzer	Williams (GA)
Lieu	Roy	Williams (NY)
Lofgren	Ruiz	Williams (TX)
Loudermilk	Ruppersberger	Wilson (SC)
Lucas	Rutherford	Wittman
Luna	Ryan	Womack
Luttrell	Salazar	Yakym
Lynch	Salinas	Zinke

NAYS—13

Bowman	Lee (CA)
Bush	Lee (PA)
Casar	Massie
Garcia (IL)	Ocasio-Cortez
Jayapal	Omar

NOT VOTING—10

Barragán	Luetkemeyer	Weber (TX)
Caraveo	McClain	Wilson (FL)
Granger	Payne	
Grijalva	Peters	

□ 1421

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

STRENGTHENING TOOLS TO COUNTER THE USE OF HUMAN SHIELDS ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5917) to amend the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act to modify and extend that Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5917

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 “Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields Act”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to fully implement and enforce sanctions against terrorist organizations and other malign actors that use innocent civilians as human shields.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF SANCTIONING THE USE OF CIVILIANS AS DEFENSELESS SHIELDS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115-348; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) Each foreign person that the President determines, on or after the date of the enactment of the Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields Act—

“(A) is a member of Palestine Islamic Jihad or is knowingly acting on behalf of Palestine Islamic Jihad; and

“(B) knowingly orders, controls, or otherwise directs the use of civilians protected as such by the law of war to shield military objectives from attack.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a request from the chairman and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a foreign person meets the criteria of a person described in subsection (b) or (c), the President shall—

“(1) determine if the person meets such criteria; and

“(2) submit a written justification to the chairman and ranking member detailing whether or not the President imposed or intends to impose sanctions described in subsection (b) or (c) with respect to such person.”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115–348; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) PALESTINE ISLAMIC JIHAD.—The term ‘Palestine Islamic Jihad’ means—

“(A) the entity known as Palestine Islamic Jihad and designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189); or

“(B) any person identified as an agent or instrumentality of Palestine Islamic Jihad on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury, the property or interests in property of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).”.

(c) SUNSET.—Section 5 of the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115–348; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “December 31, 2030”.

(d) SEVERABILITY.—The Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115–348; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 6. SEVERABILITY.

“If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is found to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.”.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON COUNTERING THE USE OF HUMAN SHIELDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that contains the following:

(1) A description of the lessons learned from the United States and its allies and partners in addressing the use of human shields by terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestine Islamic Jihad, and any other organization as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) A description of a specific plan and actions being taken by the Department of Defense to incorporate the lessons learned as identified in paragraph (1) into Department of Defense operating guidance, relevant capabilities, and tactics, techniques, and procedures to deter, counter, and address the challenge posed by the use of human shields and hold accountable terrorist organizations for the use of human shields.

(3) A description of specific measures being developed and implemented by the United States Government to mobilize and leverage

allied nations, including member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to deter, counter, and hold accountable terrorist organizations for the use of human shields.

(4) The current status of joint exercises, doctrine development, education, and training on countering the use of human shields in multinational centers of excellence.

(5) The current status of participation of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian personnel in any multinational center of excellence for the purposes of countering the use of human shields.

(6) The feasibility and advisability of beginning or continuing participation of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian personnel to promote the integration of joint exercises, doctrine development, education, and training on countering the use of human shields into multinational centers of excellence.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “multinational center of excellence” has the meaning given that term in section 344 of title 10, United States Code.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and 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. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. GALLAGHER, for introducing this important bipartisan legislation to address ongoing atrocities committed by Hamas and other Iran-backed terrorist organizations.

For years, it has been well documented how terrorist organizations like Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad use civilians as human shields in conflict.

Hezbollah terrorists are systematically embedded in civilian areas and population centers throughout Lebanon. Hezbollah has embedded hundreds of arms depots, thousands of terrorists, and tens of thousands of rockets throughout densely populated southern Lebanon, and Hamas’ utter disregard for human life has been made plain for all to see since October 7.

After murdering 1,200 people on October 7, 2023, and taking 240 hostages, they have prevented innocent Palestinians from fleeing conflict zones and repeatedly rejected proposals that would bring a pause to the fighting in Gaza.

These terrorists do not care about innocent civilian lives. They know exactly what they are doing when they use a hospital as military headquarters and stockpile weapons in schools. Terrorist groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have no regard for the lives of the innocent

women and children they place in harm’s way by co-locating civilian and military targets.

Every civilian that is harmed in this war is harmed as a result of Hamas’ actions. As Israel defends itself against the threat of Hamas and other Iran-backed terrorist groups, we must address the urgent issue of terrorist organizations using civilian shields immediately.

Congress must stand against these brutal practices and strengthen their ability to hold these terrorists accountable for their crimes.

The 2018 Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act established a strong framework for holding Hamas and other terrorist organizations accountable. This legislation today would reauthorize the 2018 law through the year 2030 and add Palestinian Islamic Jihad as a covered entity. It also establishes new tools to ensure that those who use human shields are held accountable.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write regarding H.R. 5917, the Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields Act. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee’s Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee’s jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee’s report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5917 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2024.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5917, the Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields 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 this bill 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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL T. McCAUL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. McCAUL: I write concerning H.R. 5917, the Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields Act. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 5917 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, I forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5917 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

Finally, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included by the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. ROGERS,
*Chairman, House Committee
on Armed Services.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2024.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5917, the Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields 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 this bill 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. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5917, the Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields Act, and I thank my colleagues, Representative GALLAGHER and Representative SHERMAN, for introducing this legislation.

As we all know, Hamas regularly uses people as human shields, hiding behind them and thereby endangering innocent Palestinian civilians. We have seen this clearly in the months since October 7, but this behavior is not new. It is and has been the de facto policy of Hamas for many years.

Hamas has operated from under, inside, and adjacent to hospitals, schools, and other civilian structures. Within civilian buildings, they have stored weapons caches and ammunition, built miles of tunnels underground, and launched attacks from behind women and children.

When Israel instructed families in Gaza to flee to the south for safety, Hamas demanded people stay in Gaza City, to remain in place, saying that it was beneficial to their strategy.

Hamas does not care for the Palestinian people. They never have. They never will. Hamas only means to exploit them as human shields.

This behavior of hiding behind non-combatants is a clear violation of international law and has been an unconscionable contributor to the deaths of too many innocent Palestinian people.

This measure, H.R. 5917, amends the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act, adding additional terrorist entities, bolstering congressional oversight and reporting requirements, and extending its sunset provision.

This legislation will renew and strengthen existing law, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER), the author of this bill.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is fitting, at least for me, that we are debating this today because one of the very first bills I got passed as a freshman Member of Congress working across the aisle with my fellow classmate, Representative SUOZZI, was the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians As Defenseless Shields Act, which first created the authority for the President to sanction Hamas and Hezbollah for their use of human shields.

I remember at the time talking about this barbaric practice. I was met with shock and surprise.

Unfortunately, in the wake of October 7, the entire world has seen the lengths that these terrorist groups will go to in order to advance their genocidal cause, using innocent women and

children as human shields. The fact that this may be one of the last bills I get passed in Congress is fitting.

As I alluded to, there is nothing new about this despicable practice, which Hamas has perfected, of using civilians and hostages as human shields. They have been doing it for decades, placing innocents in harm's way. They have been unmasked in recent months for the world to see.

Rocket launchers, weapons caches, and terrorist fighters are found in or near civilian population centers, including sites like schools and mosques, to deliberately limit the Israeli military from striking Hamas targets or, if they do, to incur the condemnation of the world against them in order to limit their effectiveness going forward.

Our condemnation of this heinous war crime is not enough. We must use the full weight of American sanctions to curtail this practice and encourage like-minded countries to combat it, as well.

This bipartisan bill does just that. As the ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs talked about so eloquently, we extend the sunset of that authority, which dates back to 2018, from 2023 to 2030. It includes updates to ensure this is used to punish terrorists. Importantly, it gives the chairmen and ranking members of several congressional committees the power to require a written response from the President with a determination of whether a foreign person meets the criteria for sanctions and the President's justification for imposing or not imposing sanctions.

Additionally, it requires mandatory sanctions on Palestinian Islamic Jihad members who use human shields and supports constructive efforts to combat human shields by requiring the Department of Defense to submit a report to Congress on efforts to equip our allies to counter the use of human shields across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I thank Chairman McCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for their leadership of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and for their support of this bill during the markup.

I am also grateful for Congressman SHERMAN's partnership in this effort to renew and update these important sanctions.

Again, I think back to where I was 8 years ago as a freshman Member talking about what was then a very niche and poorly understood issue. Unfortunately, because of the barbarism on display, because of Hamas' actions in attacking and killing innocent Israelis, now the entire world has seen this barbaric practice up close. It is time for us to act.

I draw great optimism from the fact that even in this, with everything we have going on in Congress, Republicans and Democrats can come together on something this common sense to stand with our allies and stand firmly against our enemies.

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

Mr. Speaker, Hamas has not only shown complete disregard for the Palestinian people. It has also used them as human shields as an intentional war tactic. It is unconscionable and in clear violation of international law, contributing to the deaths of innocent non-combatants.

This measure updates and extends the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act by adding additional terrorist entities, bolstering congressional oversight and reporting requirements, and extending its sunset provisions.

The strengthening of this existing statute is timely, important, and necessary, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5917.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his support. This is a really important bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to do all that we can to address the crimes committed by Hamas and other Iran-backed terrorist groups. The use of civilians as human shields in conflict is abhorrent and immoral.

Congress must do everything in its power to hold Hamas and other terrorist groups accountable for these crimes. We have a responsibility to protect innocent civilians around the world who are used as human shields.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of 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. MORAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5917.

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. MORAN. 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.

ILLICIT CAPTAGON TRAFFICKING SUPPRESSION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4681) to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to illicit captagon trafficking, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4681

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 “Illicit Captagon Trafficking Suppression Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Industrial scale production of the amphetamine-type stimulant also known as captagon, and the illicit production of precursor chemicals, in territories held by the regime of President Bashar al Assad in Syria are becoming more sophisticated and pose a severe challenge to regional and international security.

(2) Elements of the Government of Syria are key drivers of illicit trafficking in captagon, with ministerial-level complicity in production and smuggling, using other armed groups such as Hizballah for technical and logistical support in captagon production and trafficking.

(3) As affiliates of the Government of Syria and other actors seek to export captagon, they undermine regional security by empowering a broad range of criminal networks, militant groups, mafia syndicates, and autocratic governments.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to target individuals, entities, and networks associated with the Government of Syria to dismantle and degrade the transnational criminal organizations, including narcotics trafficking networks, associated with the regime of President Bashar al Assad in Syria and Hizballah.

SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ILLICIT CAPTAGON TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in subsection (b) shall be imposed with respect to any foreign person the President determines, on or after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) engages in, or attempts to engage in, activities or transactions that have materially contributed to, or pose a significant risk of materially contributing to, the illicit production and international illicit proliferation of captagon; or

(2) knowingly receives any property or interest in property that the foreign person knows—

(A) constitutes or is derived from proceeds of activities or transactions that have materially contributed to, or pose a significant risk of materially contributing to, the illicit production and international illicit proliferation of captagon; or

(B) was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate activities or transactions that have materially contributed to, or pose a significant risk of materially contributing to, the illicit production and international illicit proliferation of captagon.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all authorities granted 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 the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (a) is subject to revocation regardless of the issue date of the visa or other entry documentation.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(c) PENALTIES.—Any person that violates, or attempts to violate, subsection (b) or any regulation, license, or order issued pursuant to that subsection, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive 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 important to the national security interests of the United States.

(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the reasons for the waiver.

(e) HUMANITARIAN WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive, for renewable periods not to exceed 2 years, the application of sanctions with respect to a nongovernmental organization providing humanitarian assistance if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such a waiver is important to address a humanitarian need and is consistent with the national security interests of the United States.

(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the reasons for the waiver.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—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) to carry out this section.

(g) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this section.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations under this subsection, the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this section that the regulations are implementing.

(h) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply 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.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—