

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCORMICK. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan resolution expressing support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan.

Since 2001, the United States and Pakistan have maintained a close relationship, working together on counterterrorism and efforts to maintain regional stability.

Pakistan is grappling with massive economic instability due to overwhelming foreign debt, record inflation, and major security threats from Pakistani Taliban and other terrorist groups.

As the nation faces the simultaneous economic and security crises, the people of Pakistan must have their rights respected and their voices heard.

The new government in Pakistan faces many challenges as they work toward reforms to secure economic stability and security for their country. However, progress toward a strong democracy must remain a top priority.

The people of Pakistan have the right to strong democratic institutions, free and fair elections, and respect for their individual freedoms and human rights. Governing institutions must be free from corruption or interference. We need more progress toward all these goals.

I have been pleased to see that allegations of interference in Pakistan's recent elections are being taken seriously. It is essential that this new government commits to rooting out corruption and promoting strong democratic values.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for joining me today in introducing this resolution, which has more than 100 bipartisan cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to show solidarity with the people of Pakistan and support this resolution. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 901, expressing support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan, as amended.

Pakistan faces many challenges. I believe the United States can continue to be a partner in meeting those challenges: stabilizing and growing Paki-

stan's economy, strengthening people-to-people ties, addressing the threat of terrorism, and mitigating the risks of climate change.

As we work with Pakistan, it is important that we maintain a dialogue on democracy and human rights. In fact, I believe it is a sign of the strength of our bilateral ties when we can raise these issues frankly.

Pakistan has a long history of constitutional democracy, but as we often see here, constitutional democracy is not easy. Democracies should hold each other accountable and help each other as we all work toward that ideal.

I thank Mr. MCCORMICK and Mr. KILDEE for bringing forward this important piece of legislation and for working with the Foreign Affairs Committee to update it following the Pakistani elections in February.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Pakistan and the United States have worked together as partners on issues of counterterrorism, trade, investment, and helping to ensure regional stability and security.

It is because of this partnership that the United States must continue to work with the Pakistani Government to ensure democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are upheld in Pakistan and that the fundamental freedoms of the people of Pakistan are respected.

That is why, along with Congressman MCCORMICK, we joined together to introduce H. Res. 901, legislation to affirm the House of Representatives' support for democracy and for human rights in Pakistan.

This resolution calls on the Biden administration to strengthen their engagement with Pakistan on these issues and calls on Pakistani authorities to respect the freedoms of the Pakistani people such as due process, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of speech.

Our resolution also supports free and fair elections in Pakistan, elections that represent the will of the people of Pakistan.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's most recent election that took place in February was not carried out under conditions that credible election observers considered free or fair.

While there were some bright spots in that election, including the record numbers of women, youth, religious, and ethnic minorities being registered to vote, the election was ultimately clouded by credible allegations of electoral interference, fraud, and violence.

That is why our resolution urges the full and independent investigations of

these claims of interference or irregularities in Pakistan's February election.

H. Res. 901 is supported by over 100 Members of Congress and received a unanimous vote, 50-0, in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

I thank Mr. MCCORMICK, Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member MEEKS, and their staffs as well for bringing this really important legislation to the floor. This resolution sends a strong message.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in passing this to express our strong support for democracy, for the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Pakistan.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the challenges that Pakistan faces are significant, but they are not insurmountable. With continued support and partnership, the United States can help Pakistan navigate these difficulties and strengthen its democratic institutions.

By passing this important piece of legislation, this resolution, we reaffirm our commitment to the values of democracy and human rights that our nations share.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 901, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the people of Pakistan deserve the respect of their government. The rule of law, free and fair elections, and civilian command and control of the military are fundamental tenets of democracy. It is essential that the Pakistani Government uphold these ideals.

I encourage the Pakistani Government to continue working to develop strong democratic institutions and protect the rights and freedoms of the Pakistani people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 901, 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. MCCORMICK. 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.

□ 1630

FALUN GONG PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 4132) to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4132

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 “Falun Gong Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

- (1) avoid any cooperation with the PRC in the organ transplantation field while the Chinese Communist Party remains in power;
- (2) take appropriate measures, including using relevant sanctions authorities, to coerce the Chinese Communist Party to end any state-sponsored organ harvesting campaign; and
- (3) work with allies, partners, and multilateral institutions to highlight China's persecution of Falun Gong and coordinate closely with the international community on targeted sanctions and visa restrictions.

SEC. 3. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING WITHIN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each foreign person included in the most recent list submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

(b) LIST OF PERSONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of foreign persons who the President determines to have knowingly and directly engaged in or facilitated the involuntary harvesting of organs within the People's Republic of China.

(2) UPDATES OR LISTS.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

- (A) as new information becomes available;
- (B) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and
- (C) annually thereafter until the date of termination under subsection (h).

(3) FORM.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

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

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the person 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.

(2) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

(A) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person included in the most recent list submitted pursuant to subsection (b) is—

- (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.—A foreign person described in subparagraph (A) is also subject to the following:

(i) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall take effect immediately and automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(3) EXCEPTION.—Sanctions under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States.

(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 who violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations promulgated to carry out subsection (a) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person who commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(e) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL SECURITY.—The following activities shall be exempt from sanctions under this section:

(1) Activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.).

(2) Any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

(f) EXCEPTION RELATING TO PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this section may not be imposed with respect to transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

- (1) the sale of agricultural commodities, food, or medicine;
- (2) the provision of vital humanitarian assistance;
- (3) financial transactions relating to humanitarian assistance or for humanitarian purposes; or
- (4) transporting goods or services that are necessary to carry out operations relating to humanitarian assistance or humanitarian purposes.

(g) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(1) WAIVER.—The President may, on a case by case basis, waive the imposition of any sanction under this section if the President determines such waiver is in the vital national security interest of the United States.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the President submits the list under subsection (b), and every 120 days thereafter until the date of termination under subsection (h), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the extent to which the President has used the waiver authority under paragraph (1) during the period covered by that report.

(h) SUNSET.—The authority to impose sanctions under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the organ transplant policies and practices of the People's Republic of China.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a summary of de jure and de facto policies toward organ transplantation in the PRC, including with respect to prisoners of conscience (including Falun Gong) and other prisoners;

(2)(A) the number of organ transplants that are known to occur or are estimated to occur on an annual basis in the PRC;

(B) the number of known or estimated voluntary organ donors in the PRC;

(C) an assessment of the sources of organs for transplant in the PRC; and

(D) an assessment of the time, in days, that it takes to procure an organ for transplant within the Chinese medical system and an assessment of whether such timetable is possible based on the number of known or estimated organ donors in the PRC;

(3) a list of all United States grants over the past ten years that have supported research on organ transplantation in the PRC or in collaboration between a Chinese and a United States entity; and

(4) a determination as to whether the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners within the People's Republic of China constitutes an “atrocious” (as such term is defined in section 6 of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-441; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note)).

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 5. 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. 6. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and
- (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCORMICK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, for decades the House of Representatives has been raising alarms about the ghoulish organ harvesting perpetrated by the Chinese Communist Party.

The People's Republic of China executes thousands of people a year, several times more than the rest of the

world combined, but they hide those killings from outsiders, claiming that execution information is a state secret.

Behind that veil of secrecy lies a terrifying reality. For years, testimony and investigative reports have asserted that organs are forcibly harvested as part of an extremely lucrative trade in human organs for transplant into those in the good graces of the party, and for those, including foreigners, willing to pay top dollar.

As summarized in 2021 by United Nations human rights officials, “forced organ harvesting in China appears to be targeting specific ethnic, linguistic, or religious minorities held in detention, often without being explained the reasons for arrest or given arrest warrants.”

Falun Gong adherents and Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang are among those reportedly targeted. Certain religious and ethnic minority detainees are reportedly subjected to nonconsensual tests not required of other prisoners, such as blood tests, organ exams, and ultrasound scans, with the results being entered into a database of living organ sources.

These depraved CCP abuses must stop. The bill before us today requires the identification and sanctioning of those involved in China’s involuntary organ harvesting.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and his bipartisan cosponsors for introducing this legislation. I also commend Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for marking it up and getting it to the floor.

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4132, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4132 imposes sanctions on individuals who knowingly and directly engaged in or facilitated the involuntary harvesting of organs within the People’s Republic of China. The State Department’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices highlight that the Government of the PRC has been accused of forcibly harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience, including religious and spiritual adherents.

The illegal harvesting of organs is not only a violation of human rights but also an assault on human dignity. Imagine the terror and despair of those who are imprisoned for their beliefs, only to have their organs forcibly taken from them. These individuals are subjected to unimaginable suffering, their most basic rights stripped away, and their bodies violated in the most grotesque manner. This is not just a statistic or a distant issue, these are real people, people with families and dreams who endure unbelievable pain and fear.

The House has already spoken on this issue by passing Mr. SMITH’s Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act in March.

Today we have another opportunity to take a stand against this inhumane practice. By supporting H.R. 4132, we are sending a clear message that the United States will not tolerate such egregious violations of human rights. This bill ensures that those who knowingly and directly engaged in or facilitated forced organ harvesting face significant sanctions.

We don’t know a lot about this crime of forced organ harvesting, but the report required in this bill will give us a better understanding of the scope of the problem so that we may address it in a targeted way. We cannot remain silent in the face of such cruelty. We must stand up for the victims, show them that they are not forgotten, and hold the perpetrators accountable.

It is our moral duty to act, to protect the vulnerable, and to uphold human dignity. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), who is the author of the bill.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia, for yielding, and I thank my colleagues for their support of the bill. It is amazing, and it is very frightening that in 2024 we are having this discussion on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Since the early 1990s, the Falun Gong has been targeted by the Chinese Communist Party. The Falun Gong is a spiritual practice of mind and body in which adherents follow the core principles of truth, compassion, and tolerance.

In 1999, the Chinese Communist Party estimated that 70 to 100 million people were practicing Falun Gong, the equivalent of 5 to 7 percent of the Chinese population today. Mr. Speaker, Falun Gong’s popularity quickly initiated violent persecution, including illegal detentions, forced labor, torture, and, yes, forced organ harvesting, which is a form of mass murder.

This is something out of the thirties and Josef Mengele, but it is happening today.

On July 20, 1999, the Chinese Communist Party detained hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners and banned any further practice of this religion. Since this date, the Chinese Communist Party has continued to escalate its systematic oppression against Falun Gong practitioners.

On March 1, 2020, the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China found there to be an incomprehensible gap between the number of transplant operations carried out in the People’s Republic of China in comparison to the number of eligible registered donors.

What does that mean?

That means in China, Mr. Speaker, if you have got the money, then there is no waiting list for you to get an organ. Go anywhere else in the civilized world and find that.

What would that mean?

That means there is a ready supply of these organs, because there is.

Now their report concluded that forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale and that Falun Gong practitioners have been and probably are the main source of organs for forced organ harvesting.

In the U.S., many of those working in organ transplantation and those who benefit from transplantation systems are likely unaware. They just don’t know of China’s illegal practices.

Through its repressive control of information, the CCP has created the infrastructure and resources needed to persecute millions of its own citizens, not only Falun Gong practitioners, but also Uyghurs, Tibetans, Christians, and any other the Chinese Communist Party chooses to target.

This bill is the first binding commitment by Congress to take strong legal action against the persecution and the forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong, making Falun Gong the centerpiece of legislation, an action long overdue after 25 years.

The Falun Gong Protection Act imposes sanctions on those who participate in or facilitate the forced harvesting of organs in China. This bill directs the Secretary of State to determine whether the CCP’s persecution of Falun Gong constitutes crimes against humanity or genocide alongside a required report on the CCP’s organ transplant policies and practices.

The Communist Party of China doesn’t want us to see this. When you take a trip to China, Mr. Speaker, and see all the wonderful things and the wonderful people there, they are not going to invite you to see this. It is going to take us looking. It is going to take us focusing on it.

Additionally, H.R. 4132 makes it U.S. policy to avoid any cooperation with the People’s Republic of China in the illicit organ transplant industry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I thank my friends on both sides of the aisle for their support.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, by supporting H.R. 4132, we are sending a clear message that the United States will sanction those who knowingly and directly engaged in or facilitated involuntary harvesting of organs within the People’s Republic of China. This legislation sheds light on and condemns this horrific practice and holds to account those responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the idea that a member of a religious minority could be targeted and killed so that their organs could be harvested is worthy of a horror movie. It violates the basic tenets of our God-given rights, but that is allegedly what

the Chinese Communist Party has been doing for years.

This bill before us today will impose visa- and property-blocking sanctions against those responsible for such atrocities. It deserves our unanimous support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4132, the Falun Gong Protection Act, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Rep. SCOTT PERRY.

The issue of the forced harvesting of human organs is one that is so horrific, and so evil, that it has truly consumed me ever since evidence of the practice began to trickle out at the end of the last century.

I held a congressional hearing in 2012 that focused on “Organ Harvesting of Religious and Political Dissidents by the Chinese Communist Party,” though as early as 1998, witnesses at hearings I chaired had testified to the taking of organs from executed prisoners by Chinese government officials. This heinous practice soon matriculated to the most cruel instrument of religious and political persecution, targeting in particular peaceful practitioners of the Falun Gong religion.

I co-convened a follow-up hearing in June of 2016 on “Organ Harvesting: An Examination of a Brutal Practice.” I noted at the time that the gruesome practice was not limited to the People’s Republic of China—ISIS, for example, issued fatwas allowing the harvesting of organs of “infidels,” and Eritrean trafficking victims who could not produce sufficient funds were placed on a gurney and carved up in human chop shops in the Sinai peninsula. Yet by far and away the most systematic, and state-sanctioned harvesting of human organs, has occurred in Communist China.

In 2022, a meta study came out in the American Journal of Transplantation that examined over 2,800 Chinese language academic articles concluding that Chinese transplant surgeons had routinely violated the “dead donor” rule, unethically removing organs before victims had been declared brain dead. Since 2015, data indicated that Chinese hospitals have performed many times more organ transplants than the highest estimates of ethically-available donors can account for.

I thus invited one of the authors of that study, Dr. Matthew Robertson, to testify at a hearing I convened at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on “Forced Organ Harvesting in China: Examining the Evidence.”

Finally, just this past March, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China held a hearing which I chaired on “Stopping the Crime of Organ Harvesting—What More Must Be Done?”

Shockingly, one of our witnesses, Dr. Maya Mitalipova, from MIT, implicated an American company, Thermo Fisher Scientific, in selling kits to identify human leukocyte antigens and other DNA profiling products in China, which enables the finding of compatible organ matches, to be obtained forcibly from hapless and helpless “donors,” killed for their organs.

Beyond the hearings I have held over the years, I introduced the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act in 2021, and again reintroduced this bill at the beginning of this Congress. Indeed, our legislation passed out of the House over a year ago, in March of 2023, and has been languishing in the Senate since then.

I view Rep. PERRY’s and my legislation as complementary, and I call upon the House to pass Mr. PERRY’s bill, and the Senate to move H.R. 1154, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023, so that it can arrive on the President’s desk for his signature.

Finally, I note that the just-released State Department 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report has focused its attention on the trafficking of persons for the purpose of organ removal as a topic of special interest, citing reports of systematic, forcible removal of organs from political prisoners by the government of the People’s Republic of China.

That the State Department did so I believe was in part due to the pressure imposed by Congress, which underscores the importance of what we are doing here today.

I therefore call upon the House to pass H.R. 4132, and the Senate to move H.R. 1154 onto the President’s desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4132, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN COOPERATION WITH OUR NEIGHBORS ACT

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2789) to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy on efforts to strengthen subnational cooperation between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2789

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 “American Cooperation with Our Neighbors Act”.

SEC. 2. SUBNATIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a strategy on efforts to strengthen subnational cooperation between the United States and Mexico for the purposes of—

(1) enhancing law enforcement cooperation and local, State, and Federal security forces cooperation at a subnational level for the purpose of curbing fentanyl trafficking and other synthetic opioids, including activities such as—

(A) bolstering technical assistance and coordination for law enforcement agencies and local, State, and Federal security forces;

(B) carrying out exchange programs for the purposes of professional development; and

(C) enhancing data sharing, as appropriate; (2) bolstering subnational dialogue and capacity building between Federal and local governments, civil society, faith-based orga-

nizations, and business community leaders and integrating issues faced by local communities, including with respect to trafficking of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids; and (3) strengthening capacity building and provide resources for border towns and organizations within those towns that attempt to meet the needs of communities.

(b) UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the submission of the strategy under subsection (a), the President shall submit to the congressional committees specified in subsection (a) an update containing an assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of the strategy, lessons learned from the past year with respect to the strategy, and planned changes to the strategy.

(c) FORM.—The strategy under subsection (a), and the update under subsection (b), shall be submitted in unclassified form.

(d) LIMITATION ON DATA SHARING.—

(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of State may not carry out any project, program, or activity that implements the strategy under subsection (a) for the purpose specified in paragraph (1)(C) of such subsection until the Secretary submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification regarding the data intended to be shared with foreign countries pursuant to such strategy.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW OF ACCESS TO FINANCE IN CARICOM MEMBER STATES.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Treasury, shall conduct a review to determine any steps, balancing costs and benefits, that the Secretaries could take to expand financial access to the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including through a review of—

(1) sanctions enforcement laws and compliance standards;

(2) reporting requirements pertaining to narcotics trafficking and illicit finance thereof;

(3) possible expansion of embassies and consulates in the region; and

(4) programming or lack thereof pertaining to access to capital in the region.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of the Secretary pertaining to the review under subsection (a).

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members