

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

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, fentanyl trafficked over our southern border from Mexico is killing huge numbers of Americans and ravaging our communities.

Synthetic opioids kill about 75,000 Americans annually. That is the equivalent of 25 9/11 attacks every year. Just one kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill one-half million people.

In the last 4 years, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has seized more than 66,000 pounds of fentanyl. That is enough to kill the entire population of the United States 45 times over. However, there is obviously much more that is not seized and is infiltrating our communities.

We need all levels of government in Mexico to assist in fighting this urgent crisis.

This bill, H.R. 2789, will require a strategy to strengthen subnational cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico by enhancing law enforcement cooperation, as well as cooperation with local, State, and Federal security forces. Enhancing these partnerships is critical to curbing fentanyl trafficking entering the United States.

This bill also requires a review of access to financing for member states of the Caribbean Community, which is CARICOM, as well as sanctions enforcement laws and compliance standards, narcotics trafficking and finance, and the U.S. diplomatic footprint in the region.

The Caribbean is a key gateway to the United States, and the Chinese Community Party is working to increase its influence in the neighborhood. We must ensure that we are doing what we can to counter their malign influence in our hemisphere.

This bipartisan bill was approved at a markup of the Foreign Affairs Committee, along with a Republican amendment to ensure robust congressional oversight of its implementation.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I represent the border State of Arizona. I have heard from families in my community who have lost loved ones to fentanyl overdoses.

This Congress has increased funding to Customs and Border Protection year-over-year and has dedicated historic resources to modernize the inspection equipment and other critical infrastructure at our ports of entry, where most drugs are trafficked through.

However, we need to use every tool we have to combat this epidemic, to

stop drugs from coming into our country and to increase prevention and treatment efforts. The Federal Government must leverage the expertise of our partners in local law enforcement, business and civic leaders, NGOs, and faith-based organizations on both sides of the border.

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My bipartisan bill, the American Cooperation with Our Neighbors Act, tasks the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development with improving cooperation and collaboration between the United States and Mexico because this isn't just an American problem.

Fentanyl is trafficked into the U.S. largely from a single source, Mexican cartels. These criminal enterprises manufacture this very lucrative, very potent, and very hard-to-track drug and fuel rampant corruption and violence in Mexico.

Our bill would foster sustained and strategic collaboration to fight the fentanyl crisis, ensuring that we are using our resources and local expertise wisely.

H.R. 2789 aims to improve coordination between the Federal Government and local leaders, businesses, hospitals, and faith-based organizations that are working to combat the fallout from the opioid epidemic, like organizations treating substance abuse or creating alternatives to gang affiliation, and businesses that make fentanyl testing strips and innovate ways to keep our pharmaceuticals safe.

It also focuses heavily on improving coordination between local law enforcement agencies, State and Federal security forces, and our counterparts in Mexico by sharing data, creating professional development exchange programs, and supporting technical assistance to crack down on fentanyl traffickers.

H.R. 2789 also addresses a critical issue for our neighbors in the Caribbean community: financial access and inclusion. For too long, countries across the Caribbean have struggled with limited access to financial services, curtailing economic growth and prosperity, and their capacity to advance regional security. These challenges have been exacerbated by devastating climate events, high costs of living, and restrictive banking models.

This bill mandates a thorough review by the State Department, in consultation with the United States Treasury, of barriers and solutions to accelerate access to capital and financial services for the people of the Caribbean. This study will help us better understand how we can cooperate with our third border.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KEAN for his partnership on these critical issues, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 2789.

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and reserve the right to close.

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation supports two major priorities: tackling the scourge of fentanyl and illicit crime along our southern border and bolstering the economic prosperity of our partners across the Caribbean community. By investing in our border communities in the United States and Mexico, fostering dialogue, training, and exchange with civil society, H.R. 2789 provides law enforcement and community leaders with additional tools to fight back against crime and violence.

It also represents a strategic investment in the United States' third border with the Caribbean, identifying levers to accelerate financial inclusion and barriers that are holding the region back economically.

H.R. 2789 stands for a better future and proposes concrete ways to advance peace, security, and prosperity in the Western Hemisphere. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration is failing to stop the deadly scourge of fentanyl across the open U.S.-Mexico border.

In my experience as an ER physician, just a short period ago, I experienced about one to four overdoses per night, four patients from the ages of 17 to 36 who I could not revive and who died. Last year in the U.S., there were 75,000 fentanyl deaths.

To address this emergency, we need a better strategy for regional law enforcement and better coordination with our neighbors. I thank the bipartisan authors of this bill, Mr. STANTON and Mr. KEAN, as well as Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for moving this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. 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 pass the bill, H.R. 2789, 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair