

Expanding this bridge will enhance international trade and help to reduce costs for American families by improving the flow of goods. The planned upgrades will ease commercial traffic and help address supply chain issues.

The proposed legislation will allow the bridge's private owners to finance the expansion and improvements through toll revenue without the use of taxpayer funds. Because it is an international port of entry, expanding the bridge requires statutory changes, which have been carefully reviewed and approved by the State Department, the Department of Transportation, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

As mentioned earlier, the Senate passed this measure with unanimous, bipartisan support. A House side companion bill was adopted by the House Foreign Affairs Committee by a unanimous bipartisan vote of 46-0.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1608, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Mexico is the top U.S. trading partner with bilateral commercial activity totaling more than \$750 billion last year and accounting for more than 15 percent of total United States trade. These figures represent an investment in the American people and the Mexican economy.

In fact, U.S. companies directly invested \$130.3 billion into Mexico in 2022, and nearly 5 million U.S. jobs depend on trade with Mexico.

That is why I support S. 1608, which will allow for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge. The existing bridge supports the economic well-being of so many in south Texas and U.S. businesses that rely on the bridge as a critical entry point for import-export into the United States. The expansion of the bridge connecting the United States and Mexico will support more resilient supply chains and address blockages caused by outdated infrastructure and traffic.

It is invaluable to local growers and producers on both sides of the border as they move vegetables, fruit, and other needed products to market.

I understand that the project is also designed to include toll booths, the fees of which will help pay for the cost of upkeep and maintenance.

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

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding. I thank her staff also for the hard work and long hours they have been putting in. I thank also my good friend from American Samoa and her staff for getting this bill to the floor.

This bill allows the Starr-Camargo Bridge, a privately-owned toll bridge between Texas and Mexico, to expand and become multimodal. This bridge's previous authorization for construction expired, so we are coming back for an extension to make sure that we pursue the planned expansion project and also add a rail bridge addition.

The planned expansion will ease congestion, reduce truck idling at the port of entry, and alleviate the supply chain issues as the gentlewoman from North Carolina just mentioned a few minutes ago.

This expansion will be paid by tolls, so no cost to the taxpayers. This bridge will serve as the vital trade link between the United States and Mexico.

Keep in mind that the trade between the U.S. and Mexico has been tremendous. In fact, just last year, the trade between the U.S. and Mexico, our number one trading partner, reached \$798.9 billion. I say that in the next 4 or 5 years, the trade between the U.S. and Mexico will increase to a trillion dollars of trade.

If you look at it right now, every minute you have \$1.4 million of trade between the U.S. and Mexico.

What does that mean? That means jobs, not only for the ranchers, not only for industries, not only on this side, but also on the Mexican side so people will stay over there and work over there on the other side.

This trade is important for farmers, for ranchers, for manufacturers, and producers. This bridge is not only important to south Texas, my district, but it is also important for the whole Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank not only my good friend from American Samoa and her staff, but also my good friend the gentlewoman from North Carolina and her staff, for their work.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Senator JOHN CORNYN for his leadership and Senator CRUZ for getting this bill on the floor. I thank Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member MEEKS, and my good friend from San Antonio, Congressman CASTRO, for working to get this bill on the floor. I look forward to getting the President to sign this bill so we can continue creating jobs on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I support this strong measure, which has strong bipartisan support. This bill will allow for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge, which will greatly benefit our supply chain capacity with our largest trading partner, Mexico. This is an investment in the American people and the U.S.-Mexican economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill. I thank my colleague, my good friend, Mr. CUELLAR, for his work on this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, allowing for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge at no cost to Federal taxpayers will make a real difference in the lives of American families, especially in Texas. I urge all Members to support S. 1608, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1608.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GLOBAL ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7089) to authorize the Diplomatic Security Services of the Department of State to investigate allegations of violations of conduct constituting offenses under chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7089

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 "Global Anti-Human Trafficking Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. EXPANDING PROTECTION AND PROSECUTION EFFORTS AT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) INVESTIGATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State is authorized to investigate transnational violations of chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, in which part of the offense conduct occurred outside the United States or involved 1 or more foreign nationals.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—Section 37(a)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2709(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) transnational violations of chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, in which any part of the offense conduct occurred outside the United States or involved one or more foreign nationals; or”.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for six years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that includes each of the following:

(1) The number of relevant cases opened and investigated by the Diplomatic Security Service as a result of the additional authorities granted by the amendments made by this Act.

(2) The percentage of the cases opened and investigated by the Diplomatic Security

Service as a result of the additional authorities granted by the amendments made by this Act that were referred for further action, including prosecution.

(3) An assessment of the efficacy of the authorities granted by the amendments made by this Act and whether such authorities are sufficient to meaningfully contribute to Department of State and broader United States Government efforts to prosecute and prevent, where applicable, human trafficking and transnational violations of chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code.

(4) An assessment of whether the resources of the Diplomatic Security Service are sufficient to effectively carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and the provisions of law amended by such amendments shall be restored as if such amendments had not been enacted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 7089, the Global Anti-Human Trafficking Enhancement Act, introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

We all believe that people have inherent dignity and possess equal human rights. Unfortunately, not everyone in the world respects that dignity and those rights.

Each year, millions of individuals are exploited through human trafficking. They are forced to work in dangerous, brutal jobs for little or no pay. They are forced to engage in commercial sex. They are forced to marry people they don't know or to join the Armed Forces before the age of consent.

All of us here believe that human traffickers must be caught, prosecuted, and punished to the full extent of the law. That is why the Global Anti-Human Trafficking Enhancement Act is so necessary.

This bill authorizes the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security to investigate criminal violations of U.S. Federal antitrafficking statutes that occur overseas or involve foreign persons.

Most people are not aware that Diplomatic Security is the most widely represented U.S. law enforcement agency overseas, with agents operating in over 270 foreign posts.

This new authority will serve as a force multiplier for the FBI and foreign country law enforcement, who are on the front lines of pursuing traffickers and protecting victims.

With this authority, Diplomatic Security agents would be able to investigate the dozens of Federal antitrafficking cases every year that currently are not pursued because of time and resource constraints at FBI and other Federal law enforcement agencies that do not have people in the far corners of the world.

This proposal has been lauded by the Department of Justice, advocacy groups, and others. It responds to the National Action Plan's mandate to increase trafficking prosecutions and fight modern slavery.

□ 2015

It was adopted in the Foreign Affairs Committee by a unanimous bipartisan vote of 46-0.

Let's empower our diplomatic security agents to assist in the mission of investigating violations of U.S. antitrafficking laws that have overseas elements by passing H.R. 7089, the Global Anti-Human Trafficking Enhancement Act.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7089, as amended, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation authorizes the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State to investigate allegations of human trafficking crimes.

I thank Chairman McCAUL and Representative JAMES for their leadership and for working with us on this legislation. I also thank the Bureau of Diplomatic Security for engaging with the committee in a constructive manner.

Human trafficking is a scourge on humanity. It is a grave violation of human dignity and freedom, exploiting the most vulnerable among us, including women and children.

The scale of this crime is staggering, with millions of people around the world trapped in conditions of forced labor, sexual exploitation, and unimaginable suffering.

These are not just statistics. They are real people with dreams, families, and aspirations, all cruelly taken away by traffickers.

This bill is not just about expanding authority. It is about ensuring that we have the capacity to act decisively and effectively. By enhancing our ability to investigate these crimes, we can bring more traffickers to justice and, more importantly, rescue and rehabilitate more victims.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 7089 is a moral imperative. It is about standing up for the voiceless and ensuring that justice prevails. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and the author of this bill.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends, Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Ms. MANNING, for their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 7089, the Global Anti-Human Trafficking Enhancement Act.

God's children are not for sale. Mr. Speaker, I am sure we can all agree that human trafficking must be eradicated everywhere.

The effort behind this legislation is about confronting modern-day slavery, a major stain, the worst stain, on humanity and decency.

My bill allows the State Department, specifically the Diplomatic Security Service, to investigate instances of transnational human trafficking. To clarify, a human trafficking violation is transnational when part of the offense occurs outside of the United States or involves one or more foreign nationals.

Currently, Diplomatic Security must account for document fraud to allow them to start investigating these instances—minutiae, bureaucracy, red tape. We are going to cut that red tape with this bill.

My bill further complements current Federal law enforcement efforts to prosecute these instances, given Diplomatic Security's global reach.

Differences in language and culture are commonly the greatest barriers to successfully prosecuting these transnational trafficking purveyors. Diplomatic Security is by far the most widely internationally represented U.S. law enforcement agency, with agents operating in over 270 posts all over the world.

I often hear: Why is America involved in different parts of this world? Well, when it comes to the safety of our children, young adults, the elderly, the most vulnerable around the world, American leadership can do more to help bring justice to these victims.

According to the State Department: "There are about 27.6 million victims worldwide of human trafficking at any given time." Those are just the ones we know about.

This evil and depraved industry preys on people of all ages, backgrounds, and nationalities for their own profit—again, particularly women, children, and people coming from impoverished backgrounds.

God's will is clear. Luke 4:18-19 reads: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recover sight to the blind and set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Mr. Speaker, my bill empowers our law enforcement to liberate the oppressed and the captive, and I ask my colleagues to please support H.R. 7089.

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

Human trafficking causes unimaginable suffering, and this bill empowers the Diplomatic Security Service to extend its essential work in investigating and combating these crimes, ensuring we can respond quickly and effectively.

Our Diplomatic Security officers, with their unique global reach and expertise, play a vital role in dismantling trafficking networks that operate across borders.

H.R. 7089 is not just about expanding authority. It is about delivering justice and hope to victims while holding traffickers accountable.

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

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I again thank Mr. JAMES and his bipartisan cosponsors for the bill before us today.

We need to unlock the investigative potential at the U.S. State Department. We need to give our Diplomatic Security agents the authority to assist in the mission of catching criminals who violate our anti-trafficking statutes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 7089, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7089, 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.

MAINTAINING AMERICAN SUPERIORITY BY IMPROVING EXPORT CONTROL TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6614) to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to licensing transparency, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6614

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 “Maintaining American Superiority by Improving Export Control Transparency Act”.

SEC. 2. LICENSING TRANSPARENCY.

Section 1756 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4815) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and not less frequently than every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees

a report on license applications, enforcement actions, and other requests for authorization for the export, reexport, release, and in-country transfer of items controlled under this part to covered entities.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the 90 days preceding the previous 90-day period, the following:

“(A) For each license application or other request for authorization, the name of the entity submitting the application (both parent company as well as the subsidiary directly involved), a brief description of the item (including the Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) and level of control, if applicable), the name of the end-user, the end-user’s location, a value estimate, decision with respect to the license application or authorization, and the date of submission.

“(B) The date, location, and result of site inspections, monitoring, and enforcement actions to ensure compliance with United States export controls.

“(C) Aggregate statistics on all license applications and other requests for authorization as described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) For each license denial in which items in category EAR99 constitute at least 50 percent of the financial value of the license application, a list detailing what specific items are being denied a license.

“(3) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—The information required to be provided in the reports required by this subsection (other than the information required by paragraph (2)(C)) shall be exempt from public disclosure pursuant to section 1761(h)(1).

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

“(ii) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the term ‘covered entity’ means any entity included on—

“(i) the list maintained and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations; or

“(ii) the list maintained and set forth in Supplement No. 7 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Maintaining American Superiority by Improving Export Control Transparency Act, introduced by my colleague from Texas (Mr. JACKSON) along with Foreign Affairs Chairman MCCAUL.

Export controls are one of the most powerful tools we have to constrain

China’s military modernization and rebuke its severe human rights abuses.

Ultimately, the strength of our export control regime hinges on the ability to approve or deny a license to sell sensitive technology to China. That process is overseen by the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security, or BIS.

On multiple occasions, in response to persistent committee requests, BIS has provided the House Foreign Affairs Committee with licensing data—information on whether BIS approved or denied licenses to China.

The committee found that even for companies like SMIC and Huawei with deep ties to the Chinese Communist Party and military, BIS rarely, if ever, denied a license.

This data has been essential to our committee’s oversight efforts. This bill will ensure better oversight of the Commerce Department’s export control policies and licensing practices.

Every 90 days, the Secretary of Commerce will submit a report to Congress on activities related to items affected by export control policies, including licenses granted to foreign persons and entities on the entity list.

This bill will finally give Congress the visibility it needs to conduct real oversight on licensing decisions and will help us assess where and how BIS is drawing the line on U.S. national security.

At the Foreign Affairs Committee markup, H.R. 6614 was adopted by a unanimous bipartisan vote of 43–0.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Maintaining American Superiority by Improving Export Control Transparency Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6614, as amended, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill calls for more transparency around license application decisions by the Bureau of Industry and Security for potential exports to entities on its Entity and Military End Users Lists. Inclusion in these lists means that the export, re-export, and transfer of certain U.S. items to these entities requires a license.

This bill would enable Congress to conduct oversight to ensure that the BIS licensing and enforcement processes are working properly and effectively.

I thank Mr. JACKSON and Chairman MCCAUL for working with Ranking Member MEEKS to reach a bipartisan agreement on this bill, which will ensure that the committee is getting the information it needs while protecting business proprietary information and allowing BIS to effectively execute its core national security mandate.

As we add to the list of things we are asking BIS to do, it is also important that we equip BIS with the resources and staffing to meet those requirements. We are asking BIS to take on more responsibility with less.