

Well, guess what? My Republican friends now own the issue. You are responsible, solely now, for what is going on at the border. You are responsible for the fentanyl crisis in this country.

We had a bipartisan bill that was passed in the Senate to help aid our allies in Ukraine and in Israel. The Republican leadership is blocking it, can't even get a vote. You are responsible.

Madam Speaker, my friends on the other side are responsible for basically setting the world afire right now, creating all this insecurity and potentially giving Vladimir Putin a free pass to go in and invade Ukraine. I never thought we would be at this point.

The bottom line is this: Democrats want to work together with Republicans to get things done. They seem to be able to do that in the Senate.

I never thought I would ever say anything nice about the Senate, but they are working in a bipartisan way. That is why President Biden had us sit down and negotiate a bipartisan border deal.

That is why Democrats work with Republicans in the Senate to come up with a bipartisan deal to address our national security challenges.

The Speaker of the House says: The House should work its will. Then the Republicans refuse to bring bipartisan bills up for a vote on the floor because they are afraid of MAGA, they are afraid of Trump, and they are afraid that these bills will pass.

Having a campaign issue seems more important than solving a problem. It didn't work for my friends last night. This idea that my friends have about not solving problems, that somehow that is good for their election chances didn't seem to pan out last night.

What Republicans need to realize is that they control one-half of one branch of government and only barely.

They are not dictators—at least not yet. They have a two-seat majority in the House—two seats—because the American people voted against extremism last night.

This bill that we are talking about here today, the infomercials that are being delivered on the floor, they are going nowhere.

The reason why my friends keep losing is they keep following the most extreme Members of their Conference. People don't want the solutions that MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE brings before Congress.

They don't want a deranged former President who has been indicted more times than he has been elected to be calling the shots here. They want leaders that have vision, not petulant children that have nothing to offer but division.

Madam Speaker, my Republican friends lost last night for the same reason I believe you will lose in November. You have nothing to offer, nothing at all, but division, chaos, and incompetence. This is just a continuation of that.

What is happening here is we are debating trivial issues passionately, but

important ones, not at all. There are important issues that we need to deal with and to debate and to legislate on right now that affect the people of this country, that affect people all over the world, and we are doing this—bringing back a bill for the fourth time, a bill that we all know is going nowhere because it has been written so poorly and in such a partisan fashion.

If my friends want to be serious about governing, you are going to have to learn to work with us. It is that simple. Take “yes” for an answer and work with us for the good of the American people.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this administration's decision will have long-lasting impacts on the workforce, including union jobs that my Democrat friends across the aisle claim to care about.

It will also have long-term lasting impacts on our country's long-term economic growth. That is why House Republicans will pass this legislation, which removes Biden's export regulations that add uncertainty to the market and that curtail production and decrease global price volatility prices at home and abroad.

The underlying legislation lowers global emissions, strengthens energy security, and creates thousands of family-sustaining jobs.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the previous question and “yes” on the rule.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam 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 question are postponed.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1545

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 THE QUAD ACT

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5375) to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5375

*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 the Quad Act”.

### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as a Pacific power, the United States should continue to strengthen joint cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan (commonly referred to as the “Quadrilateral Dialogue” or “Quad” and referred to as such in this Act) to enhance and implement a shared vision to meet regional challenges and to promote a free, open, inclusive, resilient, and healthy Indo-Pacific, that is characterized by respect for democratic norms, rule of law, and market-driven economic growth, and is free from undue influence and coercion;

(2) the United States should expand dialogue and cooperation through the Quad with a range of partners to support peace and prosperity, the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and democratic resilience in the Indo-Pacific;

(3) the pledge from the first-ever Quad leaders meeting on March 12, 2021, to address shared challenges, including in public health, cyberspace, critical technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure investment, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid the foundation for critical cooperation among Quad countries;

(4) the Quad countries, working through institutions, including the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and through partnerships with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, should finance development and infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region that are competitive, transparent, and sustainable;

(5) President Biden's decision to elevate the Quad to the leaders level was critical to bolstering cooperation, and all four countries should work to ensure that the Quad Leaders' Summit continues to take place regularly;

(6) the ambitious framework for ongoing cooperation laid out by the four leaders at

the fifth convening of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 20, 2023, should continue; and

(7) the formation of a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group will—

(A) sustain and deepen engagement between senior officials of the Quad countries on a full spectrum of issues; and

(B) be modeled on the successful and long-standing bilateral intra-parliamentary groups between the United States and Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom, as well as other formal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

### SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation with the Quad.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of how the United States intends to demonstrate democratic leadership in the Indo-Pacific through quadrilateral engagement with India, Japan, and Australia on shared interests and common challenges.

(2) A summary of—

(A) current and past Quad initiatives across the whole of the United States Government, including to promote broad based and inclusive economic growth and investment, and to advance technology cooperation, energy innovation, climate mitigation and adaptation, physical and digital infrastructure development, education, disaster management, resilient supply chains including in critical minerals, and global health security;

(B) proposals agreed to by all Quad countries since January 2021 to deepen existing security cooperation, intelligence sharing, economic partnerships, and multilateral coordination; and

(C) initiatives and agreements undertaken jointly with Quad countries, in addition to other like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, on areas of shared interest since January 2021.

(3) A description of the diplomatic and bureaucratic barriers and obstacles to implementing and expanding existing streams of Quad cooperation.

(4) A list of recommendations on how Congress could assist in addressing the barriers described in paragraph (3), as well as—

(A) any new authorities needed to strengthen United States leadership in and contribution to existing and proposed Quad initiatives and programs; and

(B) additional resources needed to scale up and expand successful Quad initiatives and programs.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUAD INTRA-PARLIAMENTARY WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Governments of Japan, Australia, and India (collectively, with the United States, known as the “Quad”) with the goal of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate close

er cooperation on shared interests and values.

(b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At such time as the governments of the Quad countries enter into a written agreement described in subsection (a) to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group, there shall be established a United States Group, which shall represent the United States at the Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Group shall be comprised of not more than 24 Members of Congress.

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Of the Members of Congress appointed to the United States Group under subparagraph (A)—

(i) half shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, based on recommendations from the minority leader, from among Members of the House, not fewer than four of whom shall be members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and

(ii) half shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, based on recommendations of the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, from among Members of the Senate, not fewer than four of whom shall be members of the Committee on Foreign Relations (unless the majority leader and minority leader determine otherwise).

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Group shall seek to meet not less frequently than annually with representatives and appropriate staff of the legislatures of Japan, Australia, and India, and any other country invited by mutual agreement of the Quad countries.

(B) LIMITATION.—A meeting described in subparagraph (A) may be held—

(i) in the United States;

(ii) in another Quad country during periods when Congress is not in session; or

(iii) virtually.

(4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) HOUSE DELEGATION.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate the chairperson or vice chairperson of the delegation of the United States Group from the House from among members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(B) SENATE DELEGATION.—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the chairperson or vice chairperson of the delegation of the United States Group from the Senate from among members of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(5) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States Group may accept gifts or donations of services or property, subject to the review and approval, as appropriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

(6) CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES.—The certificate of the chairperson of the delegation from the House of Representatives or the delegation of the Senate of the United States Group shall be final and conclusive upon the accounting officers in the auditing of the accounts of the United States Group.

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report for each fiscal year for which an appropriation is made for the United States Group, including a description of its expenditures under such appropriation.

(8) ENGAGEMENT WITH US OFFICIALS ON THE QUAD.—Senior United States officials shall provide regular updates and briefings to the United States Group, including leading up to and after major Quadrilateral dialogues, to ensure close coordination with Congress.

### SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SELF. 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 gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5375.

The Chinese Communist Party is a generational threat and is becoming increasingly coercive toward its neighbors and other nations around the world.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue—commonly known as the Quad—brings together the United States, Australia, Japan, and India, four nations that share democratic principles, respect for the rule of law, and a vision for the free and open Indo-Pacific.

In the face of growing CCP aggression, it is more important than ever to foster strong, resilient ties with our Quad partners to combat malign CCP influence and protect democracy in the Indo-Pacific.

That is why I support the Strengthening the Quad Act, introduced by my colleague from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

This legislation will enhance Quad ties by ensuring regular engagement between the United States Congress and the legislatures of the Quad countries.

It also requires the administration to provide Congress with a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation with the Quad.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Together, we can more effectively counter coercion from any nation looking to dismantle democratic values and the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 5375, Strengthening the Quad Act, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, in talking about the importance of this very bill, just a few minutes ago before coming to the floor, I had a meeting with the Ambassador of Japan, Ambassador Yamada, who talked about the significance and the importance of inter-parliamentary conversation. We talked about how today

freedom and democracy around the world are under threat.

According to the organization Freedom House, the world has experienced 17 consecutive years of decline in global freedom as a result of war, coup d'etats, attacks on democratic institutions, and the rise of authoritarianism.

To stem this illiberal tide, America must lead with our values and harness diplomacy like never before. This is especially important in the Indo-Pacific region where America's presence, engagement, and alliance system have maintained peace and stability for decades.

In fact, the Ambassador also talked about how much he appreciated America being in the region and staying there and working collectively together.

Today, China's growing global influence and authoritarian model is serving to undermine freedom in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

We need to work with fellow democracies in the region to showcase the heft of open markets and open societies. We need to demonstrate to the region that democracies can deliver real results.

Consecutive U.S. administrations have utilized the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with Japan, Australia, and India to enhance our diplomatic and development efforts in the Indo-Pacific.

The Trump administration restarted the Quad, and President Biden elevated it to the leaders' level, supercharging Quad diplomacy.

Today, there is a strong bipartisan consensus—I worked very closely with my colleagues on the other side, especially Chairman MCCAUL—that the Quad is integral for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

To ensure the Quad's success and its longevity, we need a clear, long-term plan, as well as political and institutional support in all four capitals.

This is why H.R. 5375 calls on the State Department to develop a Quad strategy that focuses on building democratic coordination in the region for the long term.

The strategy and report to Congress will allow successive administrations to chart forward-looking objectives and partner with Congress to best meet them.

The bill also establishes a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate engagement and cooperation among the legislatures of the four democracies.

Inter-parliamentary engagement will facilitate legislative input and strengthen oversight to enhance the Quad's effectiveness. It will also help to sustain political support and adequate resources for the Quad in all four countries.

Plain and simple, Mr. Speaker: The world has shrunk, and working collectively together, the four countries, sharing the values that we have here in the United States for the long term is

better for the security of all of us, and I believe it will make the place that we call the planet Earth a better place, a safer place, for all.

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I will point out that the recently approved National Defense Authorization Act, indeed, pivoted our hard power, our military power, toward the Indo-Pacific.

This is a critical and important piece of building our alliances across the Indo-Pacific so that we can have a coherent, coordinated approach toward the CCP.

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

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

With growing instability in the Indo-Pacific and freedom under threat globally, the Quad is more important than ever for upholding regional rules and helping maintain stability.

Regional rules, high values, and standards—that is what this is all about. That is why I am thankful that we are able to work in a bipartisan manner, collectively together, speaking with one voice in the region and with our Quad partners.

I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I am also thankful to President Biden for elevating the Quad to the leaders' level.

In less than 3 years, President Biden has held five Quad leaders summits with the leaders of Japan, Australia, and India.

In the past 3 years, the Quad has initiated cooperation in a whole host of new areas, from infrastructure development and critical and emerging technologies to maritime issues and climate change.

My bill, H.R. 5375, will ensure the Quad is effective and sustainable, not just for today, not just for tomorrow, but for the long term.

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank both President Trump and President Biden for their vision of the importance of the Indo-Pacific.

I thank Ranking Member MEEKS for introducing this bill, which was unanimously supported by the Foreign Affairs Committee at our markup.

I support its passage, 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. SELF) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5375, as amended.

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. SELF. 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 pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

# CONDEMNING RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY HAMAS IN ITS WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 966) condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

## H. RES. 966

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel and brutally murdered 1,200 men, women, and children, injured thousands, and took 240 hostages including babies and children;

Whereas Israeli police have gathered thousands of testimonies from eyewitnesses of Hamas violence on October 7, 2023, including countless instances of rape, gang rape, sexual mutilation, and other forms of sexual violence, and are continuing to gather evidence;

Whereas photographic evidence, forensic medical units, and morgue workers have identified bodies subjected to mutilation and trauma consistent with sexual assault and rape, including shattered pelvises;

Whereas eyewitness accounts from survivors of the attacks and Hamas body camera footage in Israel's southern communities and the Nova music festival in Re'im document gang rape and genital mutilation;

Whereas terrorists captured by Israeli security forces admitted they had been ordered by Hamas leaders to carry out sexual violence against Israeli civilians;

Whereas it has been reported that many victims of rape and sexual assault on October 7th, were murdered by the Hamas perpetrators and are unable to provide testimony;

Whereas released Israeli hostages have reported instances of sexual assault or abuse that occurred while held hostage by Hamas;

Whereas Israel's police, in coordination with Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, has launched investigations to build cases on charges of mass murder, rape, torture, and bodily mutilation of civilians during the Hamas attacks;

Whereas human rights lawyers, criminologists, and researchers leading the "Israeli Civil Commission on October 7th Crimes by Hamas against Women and Children" have concluded that Hamas terrorists "weaponized violence against women" to inflict physical and psychological trauma;

Whereas rape and sexual violence have, throughout history, been used as weapons of war around the world to terrorize and subvert populations;

Whereas rape and sexual violence have serious and difficult mental, physical, and emotional impacts on victims, their families, and communities; and

Whereas some international bodies have been slow to condemn Hamas brutal actions on October 7th, and in some cases, failed to explicitly mention instances of sexual and gender-based violence against women: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns all rape and forms of sexual violence as weapons of war, including those acts committed by Hamas terrorists on and since October 7th;