

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 2845, With an
Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a
new text)**

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2845

To promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity
Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2015

Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms.
BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To promote access to benefits under the African Growth
and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “AGOA Enhancement
5 Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States to support efforts
3 to—

4 (1) improve the rule of law, promote free and
5 fair elections, strengthen and expand the private sec-
6 tor, and fight corruption in sub-Saharan Africa; and

7 (2) promote the role of women in social, polit-
8 ical, and economic development in sub-Saharan Afri-
9 ca.

10 **SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRANSPARENCY.**

11 (a) AGOA WEBSITE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish
13 a website for the collection and dissemination of in-
14 formation regarding the African Growth and Oppor-
15 tunity Act (in this section referred to as the “AGOA
16 website”).

17 (2) CONTENTS.—The President shall publish on
18 the AGOA website the information described in
19 paragraph (1), including—

20 (A) information and technical assistance
21 provided at United States Agency for Inter-
22 national Development regional trade hubs; and

23 (B) a link to websites of United States em-
24 bassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African
25 countries.

1 (3) ACTIONS BY UNITED STATES EMBASSIES.—

2 The Secretary of State should direct United States
3 embassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African
4 countries to—

5 (A) promote the use by such countries of
6 the benefits available under the African Growth
7 and Opportunity Act; and

8 (B) include on a publicly available Internet
9 website of such diplomatic missions a link to
10 the AGOA website.

11 (b) AGOA FORUM.—The President should, after
12 each meeting of the United States-Sub-Saharan Africa
13 Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, publish on the
14 AGOA website established under subsection (a) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 (1) All outcomes of the meeting of the Forum,
17 including any commitments made by member coun-
18 tries and the private sector.

19 (2) An assessment of progress made with re-
20 spect to any commitments made by member coun-
21 tries and the private sector from the previous meet-
22 ing of the Forum.

23 (c) OTHER INFORMATION.—The President should
24 disseminate information required by this section in a dig-

1 ital format to the public and publish such information on
2 the AGOA website established under subsection (a).

3 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible
4 sub-Saharan African country” means a country that the
5 President has determined meets the eligibility require-
6 ments set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and
7 Opportunity Act.

8 **SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRADE CAPACITY**
9 **BUILDING.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President should take the fol-
11 lowing actions:

12 (1) Develop and implement policies to—

13 (A) encourage and facilitate trans-bound-
14 ary cooperation among eligible sub-Saharan Af-
15 rican countries in order to facilitate trade; and

16 (B) encourage the provision of technical
17 assistance to eligible sub-Saharan African coun-
18 tries to establish and sustain adequate trade ca-
19 pacity development.

20 (2) Provide specific training for business in eli-
21 gible sub-Saharan African countries and government
22 trade officials of eligible sub-Saharan African coun-
23 tries on utilizing access to the benefits of the African
24 Growth and Opportunity Act and other trade pref-
25 erence programs.

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(k) CONCURRENT COMPACTS.—An eligible country
4 that has entered into and has in effect a Compact under
5 this section may enter into and have in effect at the same
6 time not more than one additional Compact in accordance
7 with the requirements of this title if—

8 “(1) one or both of the Compacts are or will be
9 for purposes of regional economic integration, in-
10 creased regional trade, or cross-border collabora-
11 tions; and

12 “(2) the Board determines that the country is
13 making considerable and demonstrable progress in
14 implementing the terms of the existing Compact and
15 supplementary agreements thereto.”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
17 613(b)(2)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7712(b)(2)(A)) is
18 amended by striking “the” before “Compact” and insert-
19 ing “any”.

20 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
21 section apply with respect to Compacts entered into be-
22 tween the United States and an eligible country under the
23 Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 before, on, or after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act.