

VARIOUS MEASURES

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

**H.R. 4347, H.R. 2283, H.R. 4411, H.R. 4640,
H.R. 4653, H. Res. 435, H. Res. 562 and
H. Res. 588**

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JUNE 26, 2014
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VARIOUS MEASURES

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2014

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:08 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ed Royce (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman ROYCE. This committee will come to order. Pursuant to notice, today we mark up eight different measures. And I am going to ask the members to take their seats. I want to begin by thanking all of our committee members, and I want to thank the staff, too, on both sides of the aisle, for the extensive preparatory work that went into today's markup, including those subcommittees that held their own markups.

Without objection, all members may have 5 calendar days to submit statements for the record on any of today's business.

And I now call up H.R. 4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act. Without objection, Royce Amendment 117 in the nature of a substitute, which was provided to all offices on Tuesday morning, will be considered base text for purposes of markup, and is considered read and open for amendment at any point.

[The information referred to follows:]

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4347

To require the Secretary of State to provide an annual report to Congress regarding United States Government efforts to survey and secure the return, protection, and restoration of stolen, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian properties in the Republic of Turkey and in those areas currently occupied by the Turkish military in northern Cyprus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2014

Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to provide an annual report to Congress regarding United States Government efforts to survey and secure the return, protection, and restoration of stolen, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian properties in the Republic of Turkey and in those areas currently occupied by the Turkish military in northern Cyprus.

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 “Turkey Christian
5 Churches Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) United States diplomatic leadership contrib-
4 utes meaningfully and materially to the protection
5 internationally of religious minorities and their faith-
6 based practices and places of worship.

7 (2) The International Religious Freedom Act of
8 1998 states that “It shall be the policy of the United
9 States to condemn violations of religious freedom,
10 and to promote, and to assist other governments in
11 the promotion of, the fundamental right to freedom
12 of religion.”.

13 (3) The House of Representatives, when it
14 adopted House Resolution 306 on December 13,
15 2011, called on the Secretary of State, in all official
16 contacts with Turkish leaders, to urge Turkey to
17 “allow the rightful church and lay owners of Chris-
18 tian church properties, without hindrance or restric-
19 tion, to organize and administer prayer services, reli-
20 gious education, clerical training, appointments, and
21 succession”, and to “return to their rightful owners
22 all Christian churches and other places of worship,
23 monasteries, schools, hospitals, monuments, relics,
24 holy sites, and other religious properties, including
25 movable properties, such as artwork, manuscripts,
26 vestments, vessels, and other artifacts”.

1 (4) On September 28, 2010, the House of Rep-
2 representatives adopted House Resolution 1631, calling
3 for the protection of religious sites and artifacts, as
4 well as for general respect for religious freedom in
5 Turkish-occupied areas of northern Cyprus.

6 (5) Christian churches and communities in the
7 Republic of Turkey and in the occupied areas of Cy-
8 prus continue to be prevented from fully practicing
9 their faith and face serious obstacles to reestab-
10 lishing full legal, administrative, and operational
11 control over stolen, expropriated, confiscated, or oth-
12 erwise unreturned churches and other religious prop-
13 erties and sites.

14 (6) In many cases the rightful Christian church
15 authorities, including relevant Holy Sees located out-
16 side Turkey and Turkish-occupied territories, are ob-
17 structed from safeguarding, repairing, or otherwise
18 caring for their holy sites upon their ancient home-
19 lands, because the properties have been destroyed,
20 expropriated, converted into mosques, storage facili-
21 ties, or museums, or subjected to deliberate neglect.

22 (7) While the Turkish Government has made
23 efforts in recent years to address these issues and to
24 return some church properties, much more must be
25 done to rectify the situation of Christian commu-

1 nities in these areas, as a vast majority of Christian
2 holy sites continue to be held by the Turkish Gov-
3 ernment or by third parties.

4 (8) On April 24, 2013, Catholicos Karekin II
5 and Catholicos Aram I, spiritual leaders of the mil-
6 lions of Christian Armenian faithful in Armenia and
7 the Diaspora, noted that Turkey continued to un-
8 justly “[retain] confiscated church estates and prop-
9 erties, and religious and cultural treasures of the Ar-
10 menian people”, and called on Turkey “[t]o imme-
11 diately return the Armenian churches, monasteries,
12 church properties, and spiritual and cultural treas-
13 ures, to the Armenian people as their rightful
14 owner”.

15 (9) The boundaries of Turkey encompass sig-
16 nificant historic Christian lands, including the bib-
17 lical lands of Armenia (present-day Anatolia), home
18 to many of early Christianity’s pivotal events and
19 holy sites, such as Mount Ararat, the location cited
20 in the Bible as the landing place of Noah’s Ark.

21 (10) These ancient territories were for thou-
22 sands of years home to a large, indigenous Christian
23 population, but, because of years of repressive Turk-
24 ish Government policies, historic atrocities, and bru-

1 tal persecution, today Christians constitute less than
2 one percent of Turkey's population.

3 (11) As a result of the Turkish Government's
4 invasion of the northern area of the Republic of Cy-
5 prus on July 20, 1974, and the Turkish military's
6 continued illegal and discriminatory occupation of
7 portions of this sovereign state, the future and very
8 existence of Greek Cypriot, Maronite, and Armenian
9 communities are now in grave jeopardy.

10 (12) Under the Turkish occupation of northern
11 Cyprus, freedom of worship has been severely re-
12 stricted, access to religious sites blocked, religious
13 sites systematically destroyed, and a large number of
14 religious and archaeological objects illegally con-
15 fiscated or stolen.

16 (13) The United States Commission on Inter-
17 national Religious Freedom, in its 2012 annual re-
18 port, criticized "the Turkish government's system-
19 atic and egregious limitations on the freedom of reli-
20 gion", and warned that "[l]ongstanding policies con-
21 tinue to threaten the survivability and viability of
22 minority religious communities in Turkey".

23 (14) Christian minorities in Turkey continue to
24 face discrimination, prohibitions on the training and
25 succession of clergy, and violent attacks, which have

1 at times resulted in lenient sentencing, including the
2 reduced sentence for the murderer of the Catholic
3 Church's head bishop in Turkey, Luigi Padovese, in
4 June 2010, or delayed justice, including the unre-
5 solved torture and murder, in April 2007, of three
6 employees of a Protestant Bible publishing house in
7 Malatya, Turkey.

8 (15) The Government of Turkey, in contraven-
9 tion of its international legal obligations, refuses to
10 recognize the 2,000-year-old Sacred See of the Ecu-
11 menical Patriarchate's international status, has con-
12 fiscated the large majority of the assets and prop-
13 erties of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Greek cul-
14 tural and educational foundations, maintains that
15 candidates for the position of Ecumenical Patriarch
16 must be Turkish citizens, and continues to refuse to
17 reopen the Theological School at Halki, thus imped-
18 ing training and succession for the Greek Orthodox
19 clergy in Turkey.

20 (16) The Government of Turkey, in contraven-
21 tion of its international legal obligations, continues
22 to place substantial restrictions and other limitations
23 upon the Armenian Patriarchate's right to train and
24 educate clergy and select and install successors with-
25 out government interference.

1 (17) Religious freedom is an essential corner-
2 stone of democracy that promotes respect for indi-
3 vidual liberty, which contributes to greater stability,
4 and is therefore a priority value for the United
5 States to promote in its engagement with other
6 countries.

7 **SEC. 3. REPORT REQUIREMENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter
10 until 2021, the Secretary of State shall submit to the
11 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
12 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
13 ate a report on the status and return of stolen, con-
14 fiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian churches,
15 places of worship, and other properties in or from the Re-
16 public of Turkey and in the areas of northern Cyprus oc-
17 cupied by the Turkish military that shall contain the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (1) A comprehensive listing of all the Christian
20 churches, places of worship, and other properties,
21 such as monasteries, schools, hospitals, monuments,
22 relics, holy sites, and other religious properties, in-
23 cluding movable properties, such as artwork, manu-
24 scripts, vestments, vessels, and other artifacts, in or
25 from Turkey and in the territories of the Republic

1 of Cyprus under military occupation by Turkey that
2 are claimed as stolen, confiscated, or otherwise
3 wrongfully removed from the ownership of their
4 rightful Christian church owners.

5 (2) Description of all engagement over the pre-
6 vious year on this issue by officials of the Depart-
7 ment of State with representatives of the Republic
8 of Turkey regarding the return to their rightful own-
9 ers of all Christian churches, places of worship, and
10 other properties, such as monasteries, schools, hos-
11 pitals, monuments, relics, holy sites, and other reli-
12 gious properties, including movable properties, such
13 as artwork, manuscripts, vestments, vessels, and
14 other artifacts, both those located within Turkey's
15 borders and those under control of Turkish military
16 forces in the occupied northern areas of Cyprus.

17 (b) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON
18 HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND INTERNATIONAL RELI-
19 GIOUS FREEDOM REPORT.—The information required
20 under subsection (a) shall be summarized in the annual
21 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and Inter-
22 national Religious Freedom Reports.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4347
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Turkey Christian
3 Churches Accountability Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) United States diplomatic leadership contrib-
7 utes meaningfully and materially to the protection
8 internationally of religious minorities and their faith-
9 based practices and places of worship.

10 (2) The International Religious Freedom Act of
11 1998 states that “It shall be the policy of the United
12 States to condemn violations of religious freedom,
13 and to promote, and to assist other governments in
14 the promotion of, the fundamental right to freedom
15 of religion.”.

16 (3) The House of Representatives, when it
17 adopted House Resolution 306 on December 13,
18 2011, called on the Secretary of State, in all official

1 contacts with Turkish leaders, to urge Turkey to
2 “allow the rightful church and lay owners of Chris-
3 tian church properties, without hindrance or restric-
4 tion, to organize and administer prayer services, reli-
5 gious education, clerical training, appointments, and
6 succession”, and to “return to their rightful owners
7 all Christian churches and other places of worship,
8 monasteries, schools, hospitals, monuments, relics,
9 holy sites, and other religious properties, including
10 movable properties, such as artwork, manuscripts,
11 vestments, vessels, and other artifacts”.

12 (4) On September 28, 2010, the House of Rep-
13 resentatives adopted House Resolution 1631, calling
14 for the protection of religious sites and artifacts, as
15 well as for general respect for religious freedom in
16 Turkish-occupied areas of northern Cyprus.

17 (5) Christian churches and communities in the
18 Republic of Turkey and in northern Cyprus continue
19 to be prevented from fully practicing their faith and
20 face serious obstacles to reestablishing full legal, ad-
21 ministrative, and operational control over stolen, ex-
22 propriated, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned
23 churches and other religious properties and sites.

24 (6) In many cases the rightful Christian church
25 authorities, including relevant Holy Sees located out-

1 side Turkey and Turkish-controlled territories, are
2 obstructed from safeguarding, repairing, or other-
3 wise caring for their holy sites upon their ancient
4 homelands, because the properties have been de-
5 stroyed, expropriated, converted into mosques, stor-
6 age facilities, or muscums, or subjected to deliberate
7 neglect.

8 (7) In 2011, the Turkish Government revised
9 the Law on Foundations to provide a legal process
10 for considering claims for return of religious prop-
11 erties and the provision of compensation for those
12 properties that had been sold to third parties.

13 (8) As of January 2014, the Turkish Govern-
14 ment reported the return of over 300 properties, in-
15 cluding cemeteries, places of worship and schools.

16 (9) In the 2014 Annual Report by the United
17 States Commission on International Religious Free-
18 dom, the Commission noted that while those prop-
19 erties had been returned, over 1,000 other applica-
20 tions had been denied.

21 (10) While the Turkish Government has made
22 efforts in recent years to address these issues and to
23 return some church properties, more must be done
24 to rectify the situation of Christian communities in
25 these areas, as a vast majority of Christian holy

1 sites continue to be held by the Turkish Government
2 or by third parties.

3 (11) On April 24, 2013, Catholicos Karekin II
4 and Catholicos Aram I, spiritual leaders of the mil-
5 lions of Christian Armenian faithful in Armenia and
6 the Diaspora, noted that Turkey continued to un-
7 justly “[retain] confiscated church estates and prop-
8 erties, and religious and cultural treasures of the Ar-
9 menian people”, and called on Turkey “[t]o imme-
10 diately return the Armenian churches, monasteries,
11 church properties, and spiritual and cultural treas-
12 ures, to the Armenian people as their rightful
13 owner”.

14 (12) The boundaries of Turkey encompass sig-
15 nificant historic Christian lands, including the bib-
16 lical lands of Armenia (present-day Anatolia), home
17 to many of early Christianity’s pivotal events and
18 holy sites, such as Mount Ararat, the location cited
19 in the Bible as the landing place of Noah’s Ark,
20 which for thousands of years was home to a large,
21 indigineous Christian population.

22 (13) As a result of the Turkish Government’s
23 invasion of the northern area of the Republic of Cy-
24 prus on July 20, 1974, and the Turkish military’s
25 continued illegal and discriminatory occupation of

1 portions of this sovereign state, the future and very
2 existence of Greek Cypriot, Maronite, and Armenian
3 communities are now in grave jeopardy.

4 (14) Under Turkish control, freedom of worship
5 in northern Cyprus has been severely restricted, ac-
6 cess to religious sites blocked, religious sites system-
7 atically destroyed, and a large number of religious
8 and archaeological objects illegally confiscated or
9 stolen.

10 (15) The United States Commission on Inter-
11 national Religious Freedom, in its 2014 annual re-
12 port, placed Turkey on its Tier II watch list of
13 “countries where the violations perpetrated or toler-
14 ated by the government are serious and character-
15 ized by at least one of the elements of the ‘system-
16 atic, ongoing, and egregious’ standard”, and stated,
17 “While the Turkish government has implemented
18 some reforms in recent years to improve religious
19 freedom, significant concerns remain. . .The govern-
20 ment limits all religious groups’ right to own and
21 maintain places of worship, train clergy, and offer
22 religious education. This has been particularly detri-
23 mental to the smallest minority communities and
24 their ability to transmit their faith to future genera-
25 tions. . .”.

1 (16) In its 2014 report, the USCIRF also
2 noted, “The Turkish government has shown that
3 some improvements, such as relating to property and
4 religious dress, are possible without a new constitu-
5 tion as long as there is sufficient political will. Rec-
6 ognition of this dynamic in Turkey makes the gov-
7 ernment’s continued failure to follow through on the
8 long promised re-opening of the Halki Seminary, a
9 disturbing indication of a lack of genuine will to re-
10 solve this longstanding religious freedom violation.”.

11 (17) The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the spir-
12 itual home of the world’s oldest and second largest
13 Christian church located in Istanbul, Turkey.

14 (18) The disappearance of the See would mean
15 the end of a crucial link between the Christian and
16 the Muslim world since the continuing presence of
17 the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey is a living
18 testimony of religious co-existence since 1453.

19 (19) The Theological School of Halki, founded
20 in 1844 and located outside Istanbul, Turkey, served
21 as the principal seminary for the Ecumenical Patri-
22 archate until its forcible closure by the Turkish au-
23 thorities in 1971.

24 (20) The Republic of Turkey has been a partici-
25 pating state of the Organization for Security and

1 Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) since signing the
2 Helsinki Final Act in 1975.

3 (21) In 1989, OSCE participating states adopted
4 the Vienna Concluding Document, committing to
5 respect the right of religious communities to provide
6 “training of religious personnel in appropriate insti-
7 tutions”.

8 (22) In his address to the Grand National As-
9 sembly of Turkey on April 6, 2009, President
10 Barack Obama said, “Freedom of religion and ex-
11 pression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society
12 that only strengthens the state, which is why steps
13 like reopening Halki Seminary will send such an im-
14 portant signal inside Turkey and beyond.”.

15 (23) Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip
16 Erdogan met with the Ecumenical Patriarch on Au-
17 gust 15, 2009, and, in an address to a wider gath-
18 ering of minority religious leaders that day, con-
19 cluded by stating, “We should not be of those who
20 gather, talk, and disperse. A result should come out
21 of this.”.

22 (24) In a welcome development, for the first
23 time since 1922, the Turkish Government in August
24 2010 allowed the liturgical celebration by the Ecu-
25 menical Patriarch at the historic Sumela Monastery.

1 (25) Following a unanimous decision by the
2 European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in
3 2010, ruling that Turkey return the former Greek
4 Orphanage on Buyukada Island to the Ecumenical
5 Patriarchate, on the eve of the feast day of St. An-
6 drew observed on November 30, the Government of
7 Turkey provided lawyers representing the Ecumeni-
8 cal Patriarchate with the formal property title for
9 the confiscated building.

10 (26) In March 2012, after bilateral meetings
11 between the United States and Turkey in Seoul,
12 Korea, President Barack Obama praised Prime Min-
13 ister Erdogan's efforts to protect religious minorities
14 and announced, "I am pleased to hear of his deci-
15 sion to reopen the Halki Seminary."

16 (27) Turkey's Council of Foundations returned
17 190 hectares of forestland to the Theological School
18 of Halki in January 2013.

19 (28) In these cases, as with others, inter-
20 national attention has been a positive motivator for
21 progress to the Turkish Government in returning
22 church property.

23 (29) Christian minorities in Turkey continue to
24 face discrimination, prohibitions on the training and
25 succession of clergy, and violent attacks, which have

1 at times resulted in lenient sentencing, including the
2 reduced sentence for the murderer of the Catholic
3 Church's head bishop in Turkey, Luigi Padovese, in
4 June 2010, or delayed justice, including the unre-
5 solved torture and murder, in April 2007, of three
6 employees of a Protestant Bible publishing house in
7 Malatya, Turkey.

8 (30) The Turkish Government, in contravention
9 of its international legal obligations, refuses to rec-
10 ognize the 2,000-year-old Sacred See of the Ecu-
11 menical Patriarchate's international status, has con-
12 fiscated the large majority of the assets and prop-
13 erties of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Greek cul-
14 tural and educational foundations, maintains that
15 candidates for the position of Ecumenical Patriarch
16 must be Turkish citizens, and continues to refuse to
17 reopen the Theological School at Halki, thus imped-
18 ing training and succession for the Greek Orthodox
19 clergy in Turkey.

20 (31) The Turkish Government, in contravention
21 of its international legal obligations, continues to
22 place substantial restrictions and other limitations
23 upon the Armenian Patriarchate's right to train and
24 educate clergy and select and install successors with-
25 out government interference.

1 (32) Religious freedom is an essential corner-
2 stone of democracy that promotes respect for indi-
3 vidual liberty, which contributes to greater stability,
4 and is therefore a priority value for the United
5 States to promote in its engagement with other
6 countries.

7 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the Sense of Congress that—

9 (1) meetings between Prime Minister Recep
10 Tayyip Erdogan and Ecumenical Patriarch Bar-
11 tholomew I are a welcome development;

12 (2) some positive decisions last year by the
13 Turkish Government, including allowing the litur-
14 gical celebration by the Ecumenical Patriarch at the
15 historic Sumela Monastery and the return of the
16 former Greek Orphanage on Buyukada Island to the
17 Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the return of the 190
18 hectares of forestland to the Greek Orthodox foun-
19 dation listed as owner-of-record of the Theological
20 School of Halki, indicate that the Turkish Govern-
21 ment can act swiftly on church property returns
22 when motivated;

23 (3) the Turkish Government should facilitate
24 the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's

1 Theological School of Halki without condition or fur-
2 ther delay; and

3 (4) International attention has provided positive
4 motivation for the Turkish Government to return
5 confiscated church properties.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter
9 until 2021, the Secretary of State shall submit to the
10 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
11 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
12 ate a report on the status and return of stolen, con-
13 fiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian churches,
14 places of worship, and other properties in or from the Re-
15 public of Turkey and in northern Cyprus that shall con-
16 tain the following:

17 (1) A comprehensive listing of all the Christian
18 churches, places of worship, and other properties,
19 such as monasteries, schools, hospitals, monuments,
20 relics, holy sites, and other religious properties, in-
21 cluding movable properties, such as artwork, manu-
22 scripts, vestments, vessels, and other artifacts that
23 are claimed as stolen, confiscated, or otherwise
24 wrongfully removed from the ownership of their
25 rightful Christian church owners.

1 (2) A description of all engagement over the
2 previous year on this issue by officials of the Depart-
3 ment of State with representatives of the Republic
4 of Turkey regarding the return to their rightful own-
5 ers of all Christian churches, places of worship, and
6 other properties, such as monasteries, schools, hos-
7 pitals, monuments, relics, holy sites, and other reli-
8 gious properties, including movable properties, such
9 as artwork, manuscripts, vestments, vessels, and
10 other artifacts.

11 (b) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON
12 HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND INTERNATIONAL RELI-
13 GIOUS FREEDOM REPORT.—The information required
14 under subsection (a) shall be summarized in the annual
15 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices under sec-
16 tions 116 and 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
17 (22 U.S.C. 2151m and 2304) and Reports on Inter-
18 national Religious Freedom under section 102 of the
19 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
20 6412).



Chairman ROYCE. After opening remarks by myself and the ranking member, I will recognize other members seeking to speak on the bill before moving to any amendments. And I now recognize myself to speak.

Members, in the midst of a turbulent Middle East lies Turkey, a democratic nation that, despite its Muslim majority, has historically bridged East and West, Christian and Muslim worlds.

I have long been concerned that this balance is shifting as Christian heritage sites in Turkey deteriorate and disappear in the face of hostile government policies.

Despite optimistic claims by Turkish leaders in 2011 that a revised law would allow all church properties to be returned to their rightful owners within a year, 3 years later most of those properties remain unreturned.

Despite the Turkish Government's numerous promises to reopen the Halki seminary, that seminary remains closed. Of course, no seminary, nobody then to practice the faith, no future church.

Recently, two Byzantine Orthodox churches previously expropriated and turned into museums, have been converted into mosques by the Turkish Directorate General of Foundations.

There is even legislation before the Turkish Parliament to convert the landmark Hagia Sophia in Istanbul into a mosque. Hence the timeliness of this resolution.

As a beacon for religious freedom around the world and having an interest in seeing Turkey maintain its secular tradition, its respect for freedom of religion, the U.S. must hold Turkish leaders to their promises.

By passing H.R. 4347, the U.S. will send a clear message to Turkey that it must return church properties to their rightful owners while providing an objective measure of its progress.

I would like to thank Congressman Gus Bilirakis for his contributions to this bill, and without objection, I will submit his prepared statement for the record. And I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I now recognize the ranking member for any remarks on today's markup that he might wish to make.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for holding this markup of H.R. 4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act. I commend you for introducing this important legislation, and I am pleased to be the lead Democratic cosponsor.

In the last century, thousands of Christian properties in Turkey have been confiscated by successive Turkish governments. The same has happened in Northern Cyprus since the Turkish invasion in 1974. Recently, Turkey has returned some properties, but many cases remain unresolved. Clearly, more needs to be done.

H.R. 4347 directs the Secretary of State to provide Congress with an annual report through the year 2021 on the status of stolen, confiscated, and otherwise unreturned Christian churches, places of worship, and other properties in Turkey and Northern Cyprus.

The report should include a comprehensive listing of all properties claimed to have been removed from their rightful Christian church owners and should describe all engagement over the previous year by State Department officials with Turkish representatives. This bill also mandates that the report be included in the

State Department's Annual International Religious Freedom Report and in the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

I want to acknowledge two visitors here today who are in the audience, Arch Bishop Vicken Aykazian and Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian. I hope I didn't mess the names up too much, but we welcome you here, gentlemen.

In this context, let me take a moment to express my concern about recent disturbing anti-democratic trends in Turkey. Over the past several years, we have seen a lot of red flags: Questionable trials of political opponents, increased media censorship, propaganda blaming foreigners and in particular Jews and Israel for domestic problems, and an increase of government control over various state institutions, including the judiciary.

As Mr. Keating and I wrote in a recent letter to the editor in *The Economist*, the current government of Prime Minister Erdogan is eroding Turkish democracy. I ask unanimous consent that the letter be included in the record of today's markup.

Chairman ROYCE. Without objection.

Mr. ENGEL. While I have concerns about Turkey's current course, we should also take note of the bright spots. Negotiations to resolve the 30-year Cyprus dispute are moving along. Ending the division of Cyprus is critical for stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and for prosperity on the island. Also, Ankara's vitriol toward Israel has diminished somewhat in recent months. This provides hope that reconciliation between the countries might not be too far off.

Turkey and the United States have a long history as NATO allies and partners. Our relationship is strongest when it is based on our shared values: Democracy, human rights, tolerance, and justice. When Turkey's commitment to those values is called into question, it damages our partnership and it hampers Turkey's progress as a free and prosperous country. One clear way Turkey could reaffirm its commitment is by returning confiscated and stolen church properties to their rightful owners.

So, Mr. Chairman, I hope H.R. 4347 will bring attention to this important issue and make it clear to Turkey that it needs to do more to resolve the longstanding and legitimate claims of the Christian churches. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. And once again, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding the markup.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Engel.

Are there any members who wish to speak on the underlying bill? Mr. Rohrabacher, go ahead.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I just would like to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing up this legislation. And let me just say that I share the concerns that were just voiced by our ranking member, Mr. Engel. There are some disturbing trends in Turkey. And while we recognize that Turkey has made long-term progress over the last 20 and 30 years, over the last few years there has really been reason for concern here, and that people who wish Turkey well need to make sure we are paying attention and that those trends, those short-term trends that we have seen, do not continue in the wrong direction.

And finally, one last point about the specific nature of the legislation that we are dealing with today, Mr. Chairman, I agree with you totally on the substance of this bill. We are expressing our con-

cern about properties that are taken that also have very significance as to the very nature of the government and the nature of the decision making that is going on in that part of the world.

I would just suggest that as we pass this, with my strong support, that we do note that there are probably properties in surrounding countries, like Greece, for example, that belong to the Turkish tradition that need to be addressed as well, and people need to respect each other's rights. And we are demanding today that the rights of Christian churches be respected in Turkey. I would hope that we respect the rights of Islamic and Turkish institutions in nearby countries, such as Greece. Thank you very much.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Mr. Cicilline.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you and Ranking Member Engel for your continued commitment to working across the aisle and marking up legislation to benefit the American people. I am happy to see forward momentum on a number of bills that I have cosponsored.

It is the responsibility of Congress to prevent terrorist organizations like Hezbollah from growing stronger; to emphasize the importance of our relationship with Moldova; and to express our concern about the timeliness of adoption processes from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

But I would like this morning to speak particularly in support of H.R. 4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act, which rightly calls out Turkey for the theft of Christian churches, religious artifacts, and religious artwork. The United States was founded on the principles of religious liberty and freedom, and the respect for religious freedom must be central to the values and ideals that we promote all over the the world.

Christian communities in Turkey have long suffered from the destruction and confiscation of their holy sites, the force closure of their theological schools, and restrictions on their right to worship. There have even been reports that Turkish people are prevented from praying in their own churches. Continued persecution of the vulnerable Christian minority in Turkey threatens the survival of their religious tradition.

In the 112th Congress, I was proud to work with Ranking Member Berman to offer an amendment during the markup of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which called on Turkey to end its repression of its Christian minority and to return stolen churches to their rightful owners. More specifically, the amendment stated that Turkey should end all forms of religious discrimination, allow the rightful church and lay owners of Christian church properties to organize and administer prayer services, religious education, clerical training, community gatherings, and social services, and return to their rightful owners all Christian churches, places of worship, and properties, including artwork, relics, and other artifacts. The amendment was overwhelmingly adopted by a vote of 43-1 in committee and became part of the underlying bill which was passed by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

This April, I had the pleasure of visiting Armenia on a congressional delegation trip with Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, as well as several other colleagues. On that trip I was dis-

turbed to hear more on the ground about the persecution of Christians in Turkey and the desecration and fundamental lack of respect for Christian holy sites. More than 2,000 properties destroyed; reused for things like museums, storage, and even a gas station.

Today, I am proud to continue advocating for religious freedom in Turkey, and I urge support of this important bill. Again, I commend you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Engel, for moving these important pieces of legislation. I look forward to their passage. I thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go now to Mr. Sires.

Mr. SIRES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for marking up H.R. 4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act, in order to ensure religious freedom for all faiths in Turkey. Christians in Turkey and Turkish-occupied Northern Cyprus deserve our assistance in ensuring that they can freely practice their faith in houses of worship without fear of hindrance or restrictions.

Since the early 20th century, thousands of Christian properties have been confiscated, desecrated, and otherwise taken from their owners in Turkey by the Turkish Government, and since the 1970s in Northern Cyprus. I have personally been to Turkish-occupied Northern Cyprus and seen the devastating destruction to these churches firsthand. It is unacceptable that Turkey has yet to return some of these properties. For example, the Halki Theological School, the main seminary of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, has been closed since 1971.

Mr. Chairman, a century is much too long for violations of religious freedom to go unanswered, and I am pleased that by supporting H.R. 4347 a message will be sent to Turkey that the United States does not stand for such intolerance. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Mr. MEEKS.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank you and Mr. Engel for working in a bipartisan fashion to actually address some of the concerns that I have had with H.R. 4347, because I believe that there has to be balance, et cetera. But I just remain apprehensive, and I will have to oppose it, simply because, you know, not because I don't have concerns. I do have concerns. I have concerns of the status of stolen and confiscated Christian property in Turkey; for example, I am concerned about the continued closure of the Halki Theological Seminary, an important Greek Orthodox educational institution in Turkey for training, for one.

But I think we did the right thing when Congress directed the State Department to carefully monitor the situation in Turkey, which they have been doing. And when I looked at the 2013 State Department religious freedom report, it indicated that Turkey has been responsive to some of the calls to return stolen and expropriated Christian property. And maybe we need to go further. But how do we do it, and what do we do? How do we make sure things are balanced in the best way to work forward with an individual who has been a strong ally of the United States?

You know, this comes at a time when we are partnering closely with Turkey on issues that are critical to the U.S. global interest.

At this very moment, Turkey is working to secure the release of 80 of its citizens recently taken hostage by ISIS during the insurgence in Iraq. Just a month ago, Vice President Biden indicated during a monumental visit to Cyprus that after a 2-year hiatus, talks were on the verge of speeding up. That is something that I think that needs to be highlighted and we should also talk about.

Also, in trying to make a decision on how and what I was going to do on this particular bill, I talked and asked the State Department where we were, and they say this bill will probably or could cause tension between U.S.-Turkey relations, as well as being burdensome on the Department so they can do the very thing that we have directed them to do.

So, again, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for working on this bill and trying to alleviate some of my concerns. I just think that as we go forward right now we need a little more balance and we have got to make sure that—Turkey has been an ally that we are working with, a very important ally in the region, and I think that this sends the wrong message at the wrong time. I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Mr. Connolly.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to first of all say that you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Engel have conducted this committee in your tenure in a way that fosters comity and civility, and I appreciate that. And I appreciate the attempt we have had in the last 2 days with our staffs trying to work together to see if we could modify the language of this resolution to make it mutually acceptable. Unfortunately, we were not able to do that, and as you know, Mr. Chairman, I will be offering a substitute amendment that expresses our concerns about these issues but in what I consider a more balanced way.

The current resolution in front of us is not about whether you favor the return of Christian properties. I favor, all of us favor that. All of us want to see more progress in Turkey. This resolution shortchanges the progress that has been made. Over 800 properties worth \$1.5 billion. The restoration of liturgical services in some religious facilities, some very significant religious facilities.

I am fearful that in our haste to make a statement that provides understandable comfort to our constituents, we are going to rupture one of the most important bilateral relationships we have right now in one of the most sensitive parts of the world. Turkey isn't a perfect country; neither are we. I know. I come from a Roman Catholic tradition. Catholics suffered enormous discrimination in this country for a long time.

But are we willing to junk the relationship with Turkey we need right now? If we are looking at any kind of intervention in Iraq, we need Turkey. Turkey has taken in 1 million refugees, unsung. An enormous act of generosity in that region. Turkey is strategically in a place where it is as an ally more important than ever for the United States of America.

As we speak, Turkey has had almost 80 Turkish nationals, including diplomats and truck drivers, kidnapped by ISIS in Mosul. We are going to pretend none of that happened and none of that is about to happen. We are going to make a statement as if Turkey

were a country that is at the very beginning of evolution and needs to be lectured by us, and the consequences we will not examine because we are determined to do something else.

We are the House Foreign Affairs Committee. We are the committee that Congress counts on to show judicious exercise of judgment, pondering and weighing and balancing consequences. The consequences of the resolution as worded—words matter—I guarantee you will rupture the relationship with Turkey.

And by the way, if our objective is to get Turkey to show more progress, and I share in that objective, this language will only backfire. They have elections pending. We are politicians. A politician in Turkey is going to use this resolution to say, I am willing to stand up to the United States of America. I am not going to be bullied. I am not going to be lectured like we are some tinhorn dictatorship here in Turkey, when we are not.

Turkey is not a perfect democracy, but it is an evolving democracy, and it is one we want to encourage to turn westward, to open up, to liberalize even more than they have. We want a pluralistic, secular society in Turkey. It is the only such in the Muslim world. To treat it with such disrespect in the language included in this resolution is bound, bound to have negative effects in Turkey. And all of the goals I think all of us share in this committee will, in fact, be set back for a cause that is noble, but for a resolution that is worded in a way that can only be calculated to inflame Turkey, Turks, the politics of Turkey, and do terrible damage to the bilateral relationship between the United States and Turkey.

I urge my colleagues. I am going to offer a resolution that I think is more balanced that recognizes the problem but also says they have made a lot of progress and let's move forward. Let's encourage them. If you want to vote as a statement that more progress is needed on this subject and that you are on record, my substitute gives you that opportunity. But I pray my colleagues look at the wording of this resolution.

I thank the chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. Well, I thank the gentleman. The Chair is going to recognize himself, and especially inasmuch as we worked very carefully on the wording in this resolution.

I would just remind the members here that this bill addresses an issue that has frequently been raised by the United States in the past, including at the highest level by President Obama, including raised by our Vice President, Joe Biden, including an issue which has been raised by Secretary Kerry. It has also been raised by our European allies.

At none of these previous times has there been any deterioration in our relations or levels of cooperation with Turkey. In fact, the opposite has been true. During or immediately following these dialogues, the Turkish Government has made positive steps on property returns.

We now face a situation where things are sliding in the opposite direction, and if we do not reassert this principle we will find, in all likelihood, an acceleration of a trend which will not be reversible.

And I think we also have to disabuse ourselves of the notion that every choice that Turkey makes is in response to U.S. actions. Tur-

key is a mature, sovereign state. It evaluates its relationships and cooperation with other countries based on its calculus of what is in Turkey's best interest, not solely in reaction to U.S. measures, certainly not solely in reaction to a report by the House of Representatives.

Primary examples of this, one I would give you, was in 2010, when Turkey voted against the U.S. and the U.N. Security Council on the Iran sanctions. That had to do with Turkey's own calculus of its relationship with Iran. This was a significant action by Turkey, and it wasn't in response to any congressional action.

It is clear that maintaining close cooperation with the United States on Iraq and Syria is, in fact, in Turkey's best interest. Should Turkish leaders choose to point to our raising of this long-standing issue, in which they are moving in the opposite direction, if they point to that, this well-known religious freedom issue, an issue they themselves have repeatedly promised to correct, as the reason to cut off security cooperation, as I think was implied here, then it would raise legitimate questions about their commitment to church property returns and where security cooperation with the U.S. weighs in their decision-making process.

But I think at the end of the day, because the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State are all weighing in with the same intention that we have here, we need to do the same.

And with that said, I am going to recognize Mr. Smith of New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you so very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to congratulate you and thank you for this extremely important bill. It is timely. It is worded in such a way, I think, that it strongly encourages and admonishes Ankara to do the right thing. And you even point out in the bill, you and the ranking member, that there have been some aspects of progress, but it doesn't even come close, frankly, to where they ought to be.

Let me just say to my friends and colleagues, unfortunately the State Department for years has always taken the view that we do not speak about human rights in a substantive way, even though the human rights report couldn't be clearer about those rights violations. I am the one who chaired the Armenian genocide hearing in this room years ago. We had a Turkish Ambassador come and testify, and he threatened us right from the witness table that if you bring up an Armenian genocide resolution we will take away your base in Incirlik. That kind of friend in the soft underbelly of NATO certainly underscores a weakness, and if that has a chilling effect on our ability to speak about human rights, shame on us.

Let me also point out that today is Torture Victims Day. I have written four laws called the Torture Victims Relief Act. I am reintroducing a reauthorization for that legislation today, and I hope friends and colleagues here on this committee will join me in introducing that bill. There are torture victim centers in Ankara and in other parts of Turkey. Torture is endemic.

I have held several hearings on the use of torture, and I have raised it in Ankara. And as chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Helsinki Commission, I will be in Baku tomorrow and will be meeting with members of the Turkish delegation. Mr. Chairman, I will put in each of those delegates' hands a copy of

your resolution and we will have a dialogue. Friends don't let friends commit human rights abuses.

Let me also point out that Reporters Without Borders makes it absolutely clear—I have chaired hearings on this, as well—that the journalists, they claim, and they have good substantive background for it, there are 42 journalists in prison suffering because they dared to write the truth about what goes on or does not go on in Turkey, and especially if anyone mentions the Armenian genocide, watch out, they will be knocking on the door and it is off to the gulag for you. Seventy-two media people in all.

Let me also point out that I will never forget, after George Bush, first Bush, after the Persian Gulf War, kind of, perhaps unwittingly, suggested that we had the backs of the Kurds, and it looked like they were looking to overthrow and topple Saddam Hussein. Next thing you know, they were all in flight. Talking about refugees, when it comes to Syria, Turkey has very little choice in the streaming of refugees, and we congratulate them for providing temporary housing and help for those who are coming across the border.

When the Kurds came across the border, the line of demarcation between Turkey and Iraq was very strong. If it wasn't for our special forces, I would say to my friends, colleagues, we were there 4 or 5 days, after all of these Kurds came to the border and couldn't get across, we would have seen thousands of dead people, who happened to be Kurds, from the elements from sickness and even from attack.

While we were there, a helicopter laden with foodstuffs for Kurdish refugees, women and children, and the elements were killing a lot of little children because it was cold—when people went to get the meals ready to eat, one of the Turkish soldiers shot and killed one of those who were just hungry beyond words. Our military, thankfully, helped keep things in check.

They are friends. They are colleagues. They are allies. But we need to speak about human rights. And again, I think this very, very prudently written bill will make a difference. And we should not act out of fear because then it invites impunity in a sense that we can do whatever we want and the Americans and others who are concerned about human rights will muffle their criticism.

So again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for this bill, as well as Ranking Member Eliot Engel.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Would my friend yield for a minute?

Mr. SMITH. Happy to yield.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my friend.

My only point is, I agree with him. We need to speak forthrightly about human rights and abuses that may occur and encourage democracy. It is how we say it that is important. And I respectfully believe that how this resolution is worded is going to be counter-productive.

Mr. SMITH. I understand that. But let me just say, if I could reclaim Mr. Royce's time, the churches, the Christians there, are under a constant cloud. The sword of Damocles hangs over them 24/7. This tells them we have their backs. And again, I think the chairman has crafted a bill that is very diplomatically articulated. And so I hope the members will support it.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Sherman.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you.

I am a co-sponsor of this bill. I think it is well written, and I commend the chairman for it. Its passage will build upon the adoption of H. Res. 106, which we adopted in 2011, which I and many of us cosponsored, put the U.S. House on record calling for Turkey to return Christian religious properties. The vote was 43-1.

This legislation is needed to address the ongoing destruction of Christian religious heritage in Turkey. This is a result of the Turkish Government's desecration in some cases and just failure to protect in other cases Christian holy sites. Because of this area's ancient history, so many of these churches are tied to an important global Christian heritage. Christians cannot legally train clergy in Turkey, any Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Armenian Patriarchate are prevented from owning and transferring property.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has listed Turkey as a serial violator of religious freedom for several years. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom reported, over the previous 5 decades, the Turkish state has, using convoluted regulations and un-Democratic laws, they have used these to confiscate hundreds of religious minority properties, primarily those belonging to the Greek Orthodox community, as well as the Armenian Orthodox. The state has closed seminaries, denying these communities their right to train clergy.

Despite a few public pronouncements vowing to return some religious property, as the U.S. Commissioner on International Religious Freedom reports, ad hoc announcements have not resulted in systemic changes in constitutional legal structures that would remedy violations of religious freedom for non-Muslim minorities, some of which are on the verge of virtual disappearance.

Now, there is the argument that Turkey will retaliate if anybody brings any of this to their attention. The fact is that France faced a similar issue about a decade ago when its Parliament recognized on the parliamentary floor the Armenian genocide. That, as members of this committee know, is a much bigger issue with Turkey than this resolution. The French Parliament passed that resolution with France being under threat by Turkey to cut the one thing France cared about, which was trade and French exports. After the French Parliament acted, French exports to Turkey tripled over the next 8 or 9 years.

So I don't think we should be dissuaded by bluffs, and I think this committee should at least show the fortitude and courage of the French Parliament. If we can't do that, why are we here?

I will yield to the chair.

Chairman ROYCE. We have two amendments, Mr. Grayson and Mr. Holding, that I was going to bring up on en bloc, but, Mr. Connolly, you referenced an amendment that you have at the desk.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. Do you want to offer that amendment?

Mr. CONNOLLY. Certainly. I have an amendment at the desk in the form of a substitute.

Chairman ROYCE. The clerk will report the amendment.

Mr. WALDEN. Substitute for the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4347 offered by Mr. Connolly of Virginia. Strike

all after the enacting clause and insert the following: It is the sense of Congress that Turkey has made progress in ending religious discrimination and in returning church properties to their owners. It is further the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, in all official contacts with Turkish leaders and other Turkish officials, should emphasize that Turkey should (1) endeavor to end all forms of religious discrimination; (2) continue to make progress in allowing the rightful church and lay owners of Christian church properties, without hindrance or restriction, to organize and administer prayer services, religious education, clerical training, appointments, and succession, religious community gatherings, social services, including ministry to the needs of the poor and infirm, and other religious activities; (3) continue the ongoing process being undertaken by the Government of Turkey to return to their rightful owners all Christian churches and other places of worship, monasteries, schools, hospitals, monuments, relics, holy sites, and other religious properties, including movable properties, such as artwork—

Chairman ROYCE. Without objection, the amendment will be considered read.

[The information referred to follows:]

**SUBSTITUTE FOR THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4347
OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that
3 Turkey has made progress in ending religious discrimina-
4 tion and in returning church properties to their owners.

5 (b) ADDITIONAL SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is further
6 the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, in all
7 official contacts with Turkish leaders and other Turkish
8 officials, should emphasize that Turkey should—

9 (1) endeavor to end all forms of religious dis-
10 crimination;

11 (2) continue to make progress in allowing the
12 rightful church and lay owners of Christian church
13 properties, without hindrance or restriction, to orga-
14 nize and administer prayer services, religious edu-
15 cation, clerical training, appointments, and succes-
16 sion, religious community gatherings, social services,
17 including ministry to the needs of the poor and in-
18 firm, and other religious activities;

1 (3) continue the ongoing process being under-
2 taken by the Government of Turkey to return to
3 their rightful owners all Christian churches and
4 other places of worship, monasteries, schools, hos-
5 pitals, monuments, relics, holy sites, and other reli-
6 gious properties, including movable properties, such
7 as artwork, manuscripts, vestments, vessels, and
8 other artifacts; and

9 (4) continue to allow the rightful Christian
10 church and lay owners of Christian church prop-
11 erties, without hindrance or restriction, to preserve,
12 reconstruct, and repair, as they see fit, all Christian
13 churches and other places of worship, monasteries,
14 schools, hospitals, monuments, relics, holy sites, and
15 other religious properties within Turkey.



Chairman ROYCE. All members now have a copy of the amendment. The Chair recognizes the author to explain his amendment.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank the chair.

This resolution is fairly simple. It recognizes progress has been made but much progress needs to be done. I listened my friend from California, Mr. Sherman, and I listened to my friend from New Jersey, Mr. Smith, and to listen to them would be to conclude, if one knew nothing else, that Turkey has apparently done nothing with respect to the return of Christian properties. The report cited actually also notes the return of 864 properties worth \$1.5 billion.

In 2013 mass was held at Hagia Yorgi Church for the first time in 89 years. Baptismal service was observed at the Akdamar Church of the Holy Cross for the first time in 100 years. Structures that have been restored, preserved to begin restoring, include the Akdamar Church of the Holy Cross, Surp Vortvots Vorodman Church, St. Nicholas Church, Mor Petrus-Mor Paulus, and the Sahinbey Synagogue—and I am probably torturing the Turkic language here—lands associated with the Mor Gabriel Monastery have been returned, Heybeliada Theological School, Surp Giragos Church, Hagia Yorgi Church, Bomonti Mkhitarian School, and Galata Elementary School.

Now, one could go on. We are trying to achieve a balance here where Turkey can work with the Christian communities to return Christian properties. I favor that. I voted for H. Res. 306. But that was something that brought us together because it didn't gratuitously just bash Turkey throughout the resolution. And I am concerned that that kind of gratuitous language is going to get us into a situation where the relationship is far more complicated and the goals we all seek, in fact, will be retarded rather than progressed.

And so I am urging my colleagues to vote for an alternative that expresses our sense of Congress with respect to the need for Turkey to have a lot more progress on the return of Christian properties, but avoids language that I think can be construed as inflammatory and unnecessary at a very delicate moment in that region of the world. And I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Connolly. You know, I appreciate your amendment. I appreciate your perspective on these issues. I know that you have been deeply involved in this region of the world. But I am somewhat disappointed because as members, I know myself and Mr. Engel have worked very hard making many changes to the introduced text and accepting changes from members yesterday, and we did that in an effort to get this legislation to a place where I hoped all members could support it.

And of course, that is not always possible. But we did make an effort, and in particular we amended the base text from its original version to include findings that note instances of progress on church property returns to Turkey, as you referenced. We make note of the 2011 reforms to the law on foundations, which provide a process for churches to apply to get their properties returned. We also note that since the enactment of this reform Turkey has returned over 300 properties to the appropriate church authorities.

And further, clauses 23, 24, 25, clause 27, they all point to positive developments in terms of church property being returned, reli-

gious ceremonies being allowed, and the historic meeting between Prime Minister Erdogan and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew back in 2009.

But while recognizing these positive developments, there is an urgency on some of the issues that are before Turkey today. Progress on church returns, as everyone here knows, has been haphazard, it has been very slow. The 2014 U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom report notes many religious communities regard this process as biased and of course very, very slow. And it highlights that over 1,000 applications by churches to have their property returned have been denied.

But that said, even more troubling, this is why this resolution is before us today. Since that time, two ancient Byzantine-era Orthodox churches, which had been seized by the Turkish government rather than being returned to their rightful owners, have been converted into mosques. And as I referenced earlier, there is a proposal before the Parliament now to do likewise with the Hagia Sophia, the great church in Istanbul.

That is one of the most significant religious sites for Orthodox Christians in the world. It is the former Eastern Orthodox Cathedral and seat of the Patriarchate of Constantinople for a thousand years, and for decades has symbolized Turkey's efforts to respect the rights of Christian minorities while promoting the country's secular democracy.

I am, and I know many other members are pretty troubled by what this says about trends in Turkey. And we feel that if we take a stand we may be able to arrest what would otherwise be a very unfortunate circumstance here. Turkey has not acted positively since we passed the last resolution. We cannot expect sudden progress if we pass the same language again. We need to reference these discussions that are underway in Turkey and these events.

And lastly, as to now is not a good time, that argument, which we have heard, and I partially answered that, but with all respect to my own legislation here, we are just making a report. Second, there has never been what has proven to be a bad time to raise it, if you think about it. This issue was raised, as I shared with you, by President Obama, and that was in 2009 when we were relying upon Turkey's support in isolating Iran and pressing Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

It was raised by our Vice President, Joe Biden, in 2011, when the Syrian conflict was beginning. It was discussed once again a few months ago by Secretary Kerry on a visit to Turkey and Cyprus as the situation in Syria worsened and as ISIS was gaining greater influence in Iraq. And each of these times, I think it is fair to say, there was no breach in relations or cooperative efforts with Turkey on key U.S. foreign policy and security issues. It was raised because it was important that the United States take a stand.

And as I said, Turkey is a mature sovereign state. It measures its actions based on its calculation of what is in its best interests. When we have common interests, Turkey will back us; when we don't, it won't.

And thirdly, I would ask why are we so sensitive? Do we change our fundamental policies every time a foreign government critiques us? No. Maybe a report will be used as an excuse, but a report isn't

going to tip that balance away from cooperative relations between the United States and Turkey, in my opinion.

And I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment. And I recognize Mr. Engel.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to, first of all, commend Mr. Connolly. He is a good member of this committee and very thoughtful and we generally agree on most things, but on this one I have to respectfully disagree and oppose his substitute. I know his intentions are very, very well, very, very good.

The question here, as the chairman has mentioned, let's put this in perspective. What are we doing here? We are mandating a report. We are not taking any punitive actions against Turkey. We are not hitting them over the head. We are mandating a report. And I think that we need to put that in perspective.

The findings on our bill, the findings on the bill, the chairman's bill, is based on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom report. It is also based on State Department Human Rights Report. So we are taking two reports that have been issued, and we are simply stating what these reports, which have already been done, are saying.

Now, Turkey cannot have it both ways. You know, I am disturbed about recent trends in Turkey over the past several years by Mr. Erdogan. I am very much chagrined over what seems to be his authoritarian rule, his maneuverings to swipe away the secularism of the Turkish state, his attempts to neuter the military so that they are no longer a barrier in preventing the move toward an Islamist state in Turkey. I think those are very troubling.

And I think, while Mr. Erdogan doesn't hesitate to tell the United States when he thinks we are doing something wrong, I don't think that we should hesitate to tell him. And they can't really have it both ways. On the one hand, they say, well, we are an ally so that should make you immune of any kind of criticism; on the other hand, when we look around and we have needed them, they haven't always been there.

Yes, they are an important country, but we are not denigrating that importance. We are simply saying that the findings in our bill are based on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and the State Department Human Rights Report.

The other thing to put this bill in perspective, there are no sanctions or any penalty against Turkey in the bill. It is just a statement of what we believe is fact, which has been documented and proven about Christian properties. And so that is what we are doing. It is a finding, again, based on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom report, the State Department Human Rights Report, and we are not imposing any sanctions. So I don't see why the chairman's bill should be opposed. We are simply stating what is a fact. No one is disputing the fact.

We are saying, well, Turkish sensitivities, they may not like it, it is poking a finger in their eye. Well, you know what, we are entitled to say what we feel and what we see. And since we are mandating a report here, we are not imposing any sanctions here, I think this is a very moderate bill and should be supported by everyone on both sides of the aisle.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Lowenthal.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to say, I want to speak against the substitute amendment from my dear colleague from Virginia and speak in support of the underlying H.R. 4347. You know, one of the groups, a little background, one of the groups that I belong to, in fact, that I am proud to be a member of, is the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. And last year, through the Commission's defending justice project, I adopted a Vietnamese prisoner of conscience named Mr. Nguyen Tien Trung. My role was to bring attention to Trung's plight, and I am proud to say that recently Trung was released from jail.

And just this week, I adopted another prisoner of conscience in Vietnam, Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh. Pastor Chinh was unjustly sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2012 for simply practicing his faith and exercising his right to religious freedom.

These cases have raised my awareness of religious intolerance around the globe, particularly in cases where it is systemically and institutionally practiced by various governments.

The reason why we are here today and talking about this amendment and the underlying resolution is another sad situation where a government is actively hindering its own citizens' freedom of religion.

There is no denying that the Republic of Turkey has a poor record on the treatment of Christians, and that is why the substitute amendment does not go far enough. Christian churches and communities in the Republic of Turkey and in Northern Cyprus continue to be prevented from fully practicing their faith and face serious obstacles to reestablishing full legal, administrative, and operational control over stolen, expropriated, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned churches, and other religious properties and sites.

It should be pointed out that in the 3 years since the Republic of Turkey revised its law to provide legal process for claims to the return of religious properties that it has confiscated, that more than 300 Christian church properties have been returned. However, it is an encouraging sight, but with more than 1,000 applications for the return of the properties being denied by the Turkish Government, it is clear that much more needs to be done. The only way we are going to change this situation is to convince the Republic of Turkey, and that is through international pressure. And that is why I think this amendment does not really deal with the underlying factors. And I oppose the substitute motion and encourage the support of H.R. 4347.

And I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Hearing no further requests for recognition—oh, Mr. Cicilline.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I begin by saying I have tremendous respect for my colleague from Virginia, who I rely on a lot as a new member of this committee, a new Member of Congress, and admire his thoughtful approach to this issue and to all the work before our committee, but I most respectfully oppose his amendment.

I think it is correct that we have to be careful about both what we say and how we say it. And this underlying resolution, or bill, sends a message and creates the reporting requirement. But the substitute amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia, I think, makes assertions that just aren't true: "It is the sense of Congress that Turkey has made progress in ending religious discrimination."

We have the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom 2014 report, where they say,

"Turkish secularism, as codified in the 1982 constitution, requires absolute state control over religion, which leads to governmental interference and restrictions that hinder full religious freedom in the country. The government limits all religious groups' rights to own and maintain places of worship, train clergy, and offer religious education. This has been particularly detrimental to the smallest minority communities and their ability to transmit their faith to future generations. Other concerns include the listing of religious affiliation on national identity cards, societal discrimination, anti-Semitism, and persistent religious freedom violations in the Turkish-occupied northern part of Cyprus. Finally, it should be noted that the overall landscape for democracy and human rights has deteriorated significantly during the past year."

So I don't think we should express the sense of Congress that Turkey has made progress in ending religious discrimination. In fact, the report goes on to say that they heard views from some religious minority communities that conditions had worsened and that the steps taken were negligible, as well as concerns that the improvements, which are not codified in law, could be easily revoked, especially in the current political environment.

So I do think, while some progress has been made on the return, or some efforts have been made on the return of property—that is reflected on page 3, paragraph 7. The underlying resolution acknowledges that. But this is an opportunity for us to again state, or to share our values, to demonstrate that this is an important priority for our country, an important shared value. And I urge my colleagues to reject the substitute amendment and adopt H.R. 4347 as originally proposed.

And, with that, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Hearing no further requests for recognition, the question occurs on the Connolly amendment.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the noes have it, and the amendment is not agreed to.

I now ask unanimous consent that the following two amendments that were provided to members yesterday be considered en bloc and be considered read: Grayson Amendment No. 284 and the Holding Amendment No. 851.

[The information referred to follows:]

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4347
OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON OF FLORIDA**

Page 3, line 23, strike “must” and insert “should”.

Page 4, strike lines 14 to 21 and insert the following:

1 (12) The boundaries of Turkey encompass the
2 biblical lands of Armenia (present-day Anatolia),
3 home to many of early Christianity’s pivotal events
4 and holy sites, and Mount Ararat, the location cited
5 in the Bible as the landing place of Noah’s Ark,
6 which for thousands of years was home to a large,
7 indigenous Christian population.

Page 5, line 3, insert “there” before “are”.

Page 9, line 10, insert “nearly” before “2,000-year-old”.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4347
OFFERED BY MR. HOLDING OF NORTH CAROLINA**

In section 2, redesignate paragraphs (15) through (32) as paragraphs (18) through (35), respectively.

In section 2, insert after paragraph (14) the following:

1 (15) In a positive development, over 500 believ-
2 ers from both the Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cyp-
3 riot communities gathered for a historic ceremony at
4 the Armenian Orthodox church in Lefkosa, led by
5 Archbishop Hergelian and attended by Sevket
6 Alemdar, imam of the Hala Sultan Mosque.

7 (16) In February 2014, Greek and Turkish
8 Cypriots finished a joint project to rebuild the St.
9 Charalambos church in Kontea, northern Cyprus,
10 and together celebrated its re-opening at a special
11 service, the first that the church had held in 40
12 years.

13 (17) Further improvements to restoring dam-
14 aged churches, returning church properties and al-
15 lowing access and religious ceremonies at all places

- 1 of worship could be significant confidence building
- 2 measures that would enhance current efforts toward
- 3 reunification of the island.



Chairman ROYCE. Do any members seek recognition to speak on these amendments en bloc?

Mr. Grayson.

Mr. GRAYSON. Thank you.

With regard to my amendment, Mr. Chairman, it is simply a matter of making sure that the terms are accurate and that we, to the extent we can, avoid language that might be misconstrued by any party. That is the purpose of my amendment.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Grayson.

Mr. Holding?

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for recognizing me and want to thank you for all the work you have done advocating for religious freedom across the globe. It is certainly an issue that I know is of great importance to many members of this committee and Members of Congress.

In this committee, under your leadership and the leadership of Chairman Smith, we have examined the plight of many across the world who are prohibited from freely and safely practicing the religion of their choosing.

As part of a delegation to Turkey last year, I had the opportunity to meet with Christian church leadership while in Istanbul. And there I heard firsthand about the ongoing difficulties in the process to get church properties not only returned but correctly identified in the inventory. However, it was also expressed that, while this process was not proceeding as expeditiously as it should be, the Government of Turkey and local communities had been making strides, and positive developments were noted.

That being said, Mr. Chairman, it is certainly my belief and, I believe, the belief of many here today that more can and should be done to move this process in the right direction. While the base text before us today does note some of the positive developments, I believe more could be added to recognize some of these positive developments, which is precisely what my amendment seeks to do.

So I urge support, and I appreciate the chairman and ranking member's support for my amendment.

And I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Well, thank you, Mr. Holding.

I appreciate Mr. Grayson and Mr. Holding's contribution.

And the question now occurs on the Grayson and Holding amendments, considered en bloc.

All those in favor, say aye.

All opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the amendments en bloc are agreed to.

Are there any other amendments?

Hearing no further amendments, the question occurs on adopting H.R. 4347 as amended.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the bill as amended is agreed to.

Without objection, H.R. 4347 as amended is ordered favorably reported as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute. Staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes.

As all members were previously notified, we now intend to consider en bloc the remaining seven bills, whose base texts were circulated on Tuesday. All of the amendments to those texts that were provided to your office, you got those yesterday. And so, without objection, the following items will be considered: H.R. 2283, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act; Smith Amendment No. 58 in the nature of a substitute to that bill; and Smith Amendment No. 60 to that amendment; H.R. 4411, this is the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act; the Royce Amendment No. 120 in the nature of a substitute to the bill; the Poe-Sherman Amendment No. 92; and the DeSantis-Deutch-Meng Amendment No. 5; then we go to H.R. 4640, the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act; the Engel Amendment No. 60 in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4640; and the Castro Amendment No. 36; then H.R. 4653, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act; the Smith Amendment No. 55 in the nature of a substitute to the bill; and the Meng Amendment No. 47; next, we have House Resolution 435, calling on the Government of Iran to assist in the case of Robert Levinson; and Ros-Lehtinen Amendment No. 49 in the nature of a substitute; next is House Resolution 562 with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova; and Royce Amendment No. 123 in the nature of a substitute; finally, House Resolution 588, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children; we have the Smith Amendment No. 57 in the nature of a substitute, and the Royce Amendment No. 122 to that amendment.

[The information referred to follows:]

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2283

To prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the Federal Government, 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 “Human Trafficking
5 Prioritization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The International Labor Organization esti-
2 mates that nearly 21,000,000 people are subjected
3 to modern slavery around the world at any given
4 time and that the majority of the enslaved are
5 women and girls.

6 (2) Congress authorized the creation of a De-
7 partment of State Office to Monitor and Combat
8 Trafficking in Persons in the Trafficking Victims
9 Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386) in
10 order to directly assist the Secretary of State in his
11 or her effort to coordinate a United States Govern-
12 ment interagency response to domestic and inter-
13 national trafficking in persons.

14 (3) The Office to Monitor and Combat Traf-
15 ficking in Persons monitors trafficking worldwide
16 and produces the online and printed versions of the
17 annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which is Con-
18 gress' primary resource for human trafficking re-
19 porting, analysis, and recommendations on the
20 United States and 186 countries around the world.

21 (4) The annual Trafficking in Persons Report
22 contains tier rankings of each country on which it
23 reports, and these tier rankings have become an es-
24 sential diplomatic tool for promoting protection for

1 victims, prevention of trafficking, and prosecution of
2 perpetrators.

3 (5) Some countries have openly stated, and
4 many others have confided, that dramatic improve-
5 ments in the country's human trafficking record
6 were directly related to avoidance of a low tier rank-
7 ing in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

8 (6) Ambassador Mark Lagon, former Amba-
9 sador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
10 in Persons (2007–2009), testified before the Sub-
11 committee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human
12 Rights, and International Organizations of the Com-
13 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives on April 18, 2013, that “[T]he State
15 Department does a tremendous job in producing a
16 report which tells it like it is, offering objective
17 rankings. Yet at times it pulls punches, typically due
18 to the urging of regional specialists rather than the
19 TIP Office's dedicated experts on trafficking.”.

20 (7) Ambassador John Miller, former Amba-
21 sador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
22 in Persons (2002–2006), recently stated that, “Up-
23 grading the status of the Office to a Bureau will not
24 create additional bureaucracy—it will simply give
25 JTIP and the Ambassador-at-large who heads it

1 equal standing with regional and functional bureaus
2 at the State Department. That standing is abso-
3 lutely essential for the issue to remain a priority, es-
4 pecially when multiple U.S. interests are engaged.”.

5 (8) The tier ranking process authorized by Con-
6 gress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
7 2000 has been in some instances compromised by
8 the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking subor-
9 dinate stature within the Department of State.

10 (9) It is essential for Congress and the Sec-
11 retary of State to be accurately informed regarding
12 United States and foreign country successes and
13 failures in the fight against human trafficking.

14 (10) The diplomatic power and credibility of the
15 Trafficking in Persons Report is based on rigorous
16 scholarship and scrupulous application of the min-
17 imum standards for the elimination of human traf-
18 ficking and is undermined by political, rather than
19 factual, tier rankings.

20 (11) Strong and effective anti-slavery policy re-
21 quires that officials from the Office to Monitor and
22 Combat Trafficking have equal hierarchical standing
23 with State Department regional bureaus and direct
24 access to the Secretary of State.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the Sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the Office to Monitor and Combat Traf-
4 ficking of the Department of State will be more ef-
5 fective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress
6 in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 if
7 the Office status is changed to that of a Bureau
8 within the Department hierarchy;

9 (2) the Office to Monitor and Combat Traf-
10 ficking will be more effective in carrying out duties
11 mandated by Congress in the Trafficking Victims
12 Protection Act of 2000 if the Office is headed by an
13 Assistant Secretary with direct access to the Sec-
14 retary of State, rather than an Ambassador-at-
15 Large; and

16 (3) the change in status from Office to Monitor
17 and Combat Trafficking with an Ambassador-at-
18 Large to a Bureau led by an Assistant Secretary can
19 be accomplished without increasing the number of
20 personnel or the budget of the current Office.

21 **SEC. 4. OFFICE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105(e) of the Trafficking
23 Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(e)) is
24 amended—

25 (1) in the heading, by striking “OFFICE TO
26 MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING” and insert-

1 ing “BUREAU TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PER-
2 SONS”;

3 (2) in paragraph (1)—

4 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “Of-
5 fice to Monitor and Combat Trafficking” and
6 inserting “Bureau to Combat Trafficking in
7 Persons”;

8 (B) in the second sentence,—

9 (i) by striking “Office” and inserting
10 “Bureau”;

11 (ii) by striking “Director” and insert-
12 ing “Assistant Secretary of State”; and

13 (iii) by striking “, with the rank of
14 Ambassador-at-Large”; and

15 (C) in the third sentence, by striking “Di-
16 rector” and inserting “Assistant Secretary of
17 State”;

18 (D) in the fourth sentence, by striking
19 “Director” and inserting “Assistant Secretary
20 of State”;

21 (E) in the fifth sentence, by striking “Di-
22 rector” and inserting “Assistant Secretary of
23 State”; and

24 (F) in the sixth sentence, by striking “Of-
25 fice” and inserting “Bureau”; and

1 (3) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Of-
3 fice to Monitor and Combat Trafficking” and
4 inserting “Bureau to Combat Trafficking in
5 Persons”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Di-
7 rector” and inserting “Assistant Secretary of
8 State”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any reference in the Traf-
11 ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 or in any
12 other Act to—

13 (A) the Office to Monitor and Combat
14 Trafficking shall be deemed to be a reference to
15 the Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons;
16 and

17 (B) the Director or Ambassador-at-Large
18 of the Office to Monitor and Combat Traf-
19 ficking in Persons shall be deemed to be a ref-
20 erence to the Assistant Secretary directing the
21 Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

22 (2) STATE DEPARTMENT BASIC AUTHORITIES
23 ACT OF 1956.—Section 1(c)(1) of the State Depart-
24 ment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.

- 1 2651a(e)(1)) is amended, in the first sentence, by
- 2 striking “24” and inserting “25”.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2283
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Human Trafficking
3 Prioritization Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The International Labor Organization esti-
7 mates that nearly 21,000,000 people are subjected
8 to modern slavery around the world at any given
9 time and that the majority of the enslaved are
10 women and girls.

11 (2) Congress authorized the creation of a De-
12 partment of State Office to Monitor and Combat
13 Trafficking in Persons in the Trafficking Victims
14 Protection Act of 2000 (division A of Public Law
15 106–386) in order to directly assist the Secretary of
16 State in his or her effort to coordinate a United
17 States Government interagency response to domestic
18 and international trafficking in persons.

1 (3) The Office to Monitor and Combat Traf-
2 ficking in Persons monitors trafficking worldwide
3 and produces the online and printed versions of the
4 annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which is Con-
5 gress' primary resource for human trafficking re-
6 porting, analysis, and recommendations on the
7 United States and 186 countries around the world.

8 (4) The annual Trafficking in Persons Report
9 contains tier rankings of each country on which it
10 reports, and these tier rankings have become an es-
11 sential diplomatic tool for promoting protection for
12 victims, prevention of trafficking, and prosecution of
13 perpetrators.

14 (5) Some countries have openly stated, and
15 many others have confided, that dramatic improve-
16 ments in the country's human trafficking record
17 were directly related to avoidance of a low tier rank-
18 ing in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

19 (6) Ambassador Mark Lagon, former Amba-
20 sador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
21 in Persons (2007–2009), testified before the Sub-
22 committee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human
23 Rights, and International Organizations of the Com-
24 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives on April 18, 2013, that “[T]he State

1 Department does a tremendous job in producing a
2 report which tells it like it is, offering objective
3 rankings. Yet at times it pulls punches, typically due
4 to the urging of regional specialists rather than the
5 TIP Office’s dedicated experts on trafficking.”.

6 (7) Ambassador John Miller, former Ambas-
7 sador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
8 in Persons (2002–2006), recently stated that, “Up-
9 grading the status of the Office to a Bureau will not
10 create additional bureaucracy—it will simply give
11 JTIP and the Ambassador-at-large who heads it
12 equal standing with regional and functional bureaus
13 at the State Department. That standing is abso-
14 lutely essential for the issue to remain a priority, es-
15 pecially when multiple U.S. interests are engaged.”.

16 (8) The tier ranking process authorized by Con-
17 gress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
18 2000 has been in some instances compromised by
19 the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking subor-
20 dinate stature within the Department of State.

21 (9) It is essential for Congress and the Sec-
22 retary of State to be accurately informed regarding
23 United States and foreign country successes and
24 failures in the fight against human trafficking.

1 (10) The diplomatic power and credibility of the
2 Trafficking in Persons Report is based on rigorous
3 scholarship and scrupulous application of the min-
4 imum standards for the elimination of human traf-
5 ficking and is undermined by political, rather than
6 factual, tier rankings.

7 (11) Strong and effective anti-slavery policy re-
8 quires that officials from the Office to Monitor and
9 Combat Trafficking have equal hierarchical standing
10 with State Department regional bureaus and direct
11 access to the Secretary of State.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) the Office to Monitor and Combat Traf-
15 ficking of the Department of State will be more ef-
16 fective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress
17 in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 if
18 the Office status is changed to that of a Bureau
19 within the Department hierarchy;

20 (2) the change in status from Office to Monitor
21 and Combat Trafficking to a Bureau can be accom-
22 plished without increasing the number of personnel
23 or the budget of the current Office;

24 (3) a Bureau to Monitor and Combat Traf-
25 ficking would be more effective in carrying out du-

1 ties mandated by Congress in the Trafficking Vic-
2 tims Protection Act of 2000 if the Bureau were
3 headed by an Assistant Secretary with direct access
4 to the Secretary of State, rather than an Amba-
5 sador-at-Large; and

6 (4) the Secretary of State should review the
7 current use of the 24 Assistant Secretary positions
8 authorized by section 1(e)(1) of the State Depart-
9 ment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
10 2651a(e)(1)) and make appropriate revisions, con-
11 solidations, and eliminations, to ensure that those
12 positions reflect the highest Departmental needs and
13 foreign policy priorities of the United States, includ-
14 ing efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

15 **SEC. 4. BUREAU TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105(e) of the Trafficking
17 Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(e)) is
18 amended—

19 (1) in the heading, by striking “OFFICE TO
20 MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING” and insert-
21 ing “BUREAU TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PER-
22 SONS”;

23 (2) in paragraph (1)—

24 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “Of-
25 fice to Monitor and Combat Trafficking” and

1 inserting “Bureau to Combat Trafficking in
2 Persons”;

3 (B) in the second sentence, by striking
4 “Office” and inserting “Bureau”; and

5 (C) in the sixth sentence, by striking “Of-
6 fice” and inserting “Bureau”; and

7 (3) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2), by
8 striking “Office to Monitor and Combat Traf-
9 ficking” and inserting “Bureau to Combat Traf-
10 ficking in Persons”.

11 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in the Trafficking
12 Victims Protection Act of 2000 or in any other Act to the
13 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall be deemed
14 to be a reference to the Bureau to Combat Trafficking
15 in Persons.

16 **SEC. 5. REPORT REGARDING DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT**
17 **SECRETARY OF STATE TO COMBAT TRAF-**
18 **FICKING IN PERSONS.**

19 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to
21 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of
23 the Senate a report detailing—

24 (1) for each current Assistant Secretary of
25 State position—

1 (A) the title of that Assistant Secretary of
2 State;

3 (B) how long that particular Assistant Sec-
4 retary designation has been in existence; and

5 (C) whether that particular Assistant Sec-
6 retary designation was legislatively mandated or
7 authorized and, if so, the relevant statutory ci-
8 tation for such mandate or authorization; and

9 (2) whether the Secretary intends to designate
10 one of the Assistant Secretary of State positions au-
11 thorized by section 1(c)(1) of the State Department
12 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
13 2651a(c)(1)) as the Assistant Secretary of State to
14 Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the reasons for
15 that decision.

16 **SEC. 6. LIMITATION OF SPECIAL WATCH LIST WAIVER AU-**
17 **THORITY.**

18 Section 110(b)(2)(D)(ii) of the Trafficking Victims
19 Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(D)(ii)) is
20 amended by striking “2 years” and inserting “one year”.

21 **SEC. 7. COST LIMITATION.**

22 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
23 priated for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs” to carry
24 out the provisions of this Act.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 2283
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike section 6 and insert the following:

1 **SEC. 6. COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST FOR 4 CON-**
2 **SECUTIVE YEARS THAT ARE DOWNGRADED**
3 **AND REINSTATED ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST.**

4 Section 110(b)(2) of the Trafficking Victims Protec-
5 tion Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(F) COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST
8 FOR 4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS THAT ARE DOWN-
9 GRADED AND REINSTATED ON SPECIAL WATCH
10 LIST.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (D) and
11 (E), a country that—

12 “(i) was included on the special watch
13 list described in subparagraph (A) for 4
14 consecutive years after the date of the en-
15 actment of the William Wilberforce Traf-
16 ficking Victims Protection Reauthorization
17 Act of 2008, and

1 “(ii) was subsequently included on the
2 list of countries described in paragraph
3 (1)(C),
4 may not thereafter be included on the special
5 watch list described in subparagraph (A) for
6 more than 1 consecutive year.”.

☒

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4411

To prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, 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 “Hezbollah Inter-
5 national Financing Prevention Act of 2014”.

1 **TITLE I—PREVENTION OF AC-**
2 **CESS BY HEZBOLLAH TO**
3 **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL**
4 **AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

5 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The United States Government holds
8 Hezbollah responsible for the largest number of
9 American deaths overseas by a terrorist organization
10 prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001, includ-
11 ing a number of attacks on and hostage takings tar-
12 geting Americans in Lebanon during the 1980s, in-
13 cluding the bombing of the United States Embassy
14 in Beirut in April 1983, and the bombing of the
15 United States Marine barracks in October 1983.

16 (2) Hezbollah's operations outside of Lebanon,
17 including its participation in bombings of Israeli and
18 Jewish institutions in Argentina during the 1990s,
19 recent support to Shiite insurgents in Iraq, recent
20 attacks and attempted attacks in Europe, Southeast
21 Asia, and elsewhere, and extensive international
22 operational, logistical, and financial networks have
23 rendered it a capable and deadly adversary with
24 global reach.

1 (3) Hezbollah has been designated as a terrorist
2 organization by the United States since 1995, and
3 remains on foreign terrorist organization and Spe-
4 cially Designated Terrorist lists.

5 (4) In March 2013, a Cypriot court convicted a
6 Hezbollah member for participation in a criminal or-
7 ganization, planning to commit a crime and money
8 laundering. In July 2013, the Bulgarian government
9 concluded that Hezbollah was responsible for the
10 2012 Burgas bombing, which killed six people.

11 (5) In July 2013, the European Union des-
12 ignated the military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist
13 organization. The designation helps to facilitate Eu-
14 ropean law enforcement agencies' actions against
15 Hezbollah's fundraising, logistical activity, and ter-
16 rorist plotting on European soil.

17 (6) In July 2013, the Gulf Cooperation Council,
18 consisting of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait,
19 Oman and the United Arab Emirates, declared
20 Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

21 (7) Hezbollah continues to provide material as-
22 sistance, including assuming a combat role, in Syria,
23 and aids the Government of Iran and the Govern-
24 ment of Syria in their human rights and other
25 abuses perpetrated against the Syrian people.

1 (8) An estimated 5,000 Hezbollah fighters are
2 supporting the Assad regime in Syria by fighting on
3 his behalf and by providing military training, advice
4 and logistical support to regime forces.

5 (9) Hezbollah continues to serve as a proxy of
6 Iran, in its effort to target the United States and its
7 allies and interests.

8 (10) Hezbollah's global logistics and financial
9 network serves as a lifeline to the organization, and
10 enables it to consolidate power within Lebanon and
11 provides it with the capabilities to perpetrate com-
12 plex attacks internationally.

13 (11) Hezbollah has evolved into a significant
14 drug smuggling organization, and also engages in
15 other serious criminal activity, including money
16 laundering, counterfeiting pharmaceuticals, and
17 trade in conflict diamonds.

18 (12) In April 2013, the Department of the
19 Treasury blacklisted two Lebanese exchange houses,
20 Kassem Rmeiti & Co. and Halawi Exchange Co., for
21 laundering drug profits for Hezbollah, and stated
22 that Hezbollah was operating like "an international
23 drug cartel".

24 (13) In 2009, the Department of the Treasury
25 blacklisted the Lebanese Canadian Bank as a pri-

1 mary money laundering concern, alleging that it is
2 part of a drug trafficking network that profited
3 Hezbollah by moving approximately \$200,000,000
4 per month.

5 (14) The Department of Justice reports that 29
6 of the 63 organizations on its FY 2010 Consolidated
7 Priority Organization Targets list, which includes
8 the most significant international drug trafficking
9 organizations (DTOs) threatening the United States,
10 were associated with terrorist groups. There is con-
11 cern about Hezbollah's drug and criminal activities,
12 as well as indications of links between al-Qa`ida in
13 the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb and the drug
14 trade.

15 (15) Al-Manar, the Lebanese satellite television
16 station affiliated with Hezbollah broadcasting from
17 Beirut, Lebanon, was designated as a Specially Des-
18 ignated Global Terrorist entity in 2004, but con-
19 tinues to be carried by international broadcasting
20 agents.

21 (16) Hezbollah continues to present a threat to
22 the United States and its allies and interests.

23 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
24 of the United States to—

1 (1) prevent Hezbollah's global logistics and fi-
2 nancial network from operating in order to curtail
3 funding of its domestic and international activities;
4 and

5 (2) utilize all available diplomatic, legislative,
6 and executive avenues to combat the criminal activi-
7 ties of Hezbollah as a means to block that organiza-
8 tion's ability to fund its global terrorist activities.

9 **SEC. 102. REPORT ON IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON CER-**
10 **TAIN SATELLITE PROVIDERS THAT CARRY**
11 **AL-MANAR TV.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-
14 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
15 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
16 tions of the Senate a report that includes—

17 (1) a list of all satellite, broadcast, or other pro-
18 viders that knowingly transmits or otherwise broad-
19 casts the content of al-Manar TV, and any affiliates
20 or successors thereof; and

21 (2) with respect to all providers included on the
22 list pursuant to paragraph (1)—

23 (Δ) an identification of those providers
24 that have been sanctioned pursuant to Execu-
25 tive Order 13224 (September 23, 2001); and

1 (B) an identification of those providers
2 that have not been sanctioned pursuant to Ex-
3 ecutive Order 13224 and, with respect to each
4 such provider, the reason why sanctions have
5 not been imposed.

6 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
7 shall be submitted in unclassified form to the greatest ex-
8 tent possible, and may contain a classified annex.

9 **SEC. 103. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTI-**
10 **TUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANS-**
11 **ACTIONS.**

12 (a) PROHIBITIONS AND CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT
13 TO CERTAIN ACCOUNTS HELD BY FOREIGN FINANCIAL
14 INSTITUTIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Sec-
18 retary of State and in consultation with the heads
19 of other applicable departments and agencies, shall
20 prohibit, or impose strict conditions on, the opening
21 or maintaining in the United States of a cor-
22 respondent account or a payable-through account by
23 a foreign financial institution that the Secretary
24 finds engages in an activity described in paragraph
25 (2).

1 (2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign finan-
2 cial institution engages in an activity described in
3 this paragraph if the foreign financial institution—

4 (A) knowingly facilitates the activities of
5 Hezbollah, including its agents, instrumental-
6 ities, affiliates, or successors;

7 (B) knowingly facilitates the activities of a
8 person acting on behalf of or at the direction of,
9 or owned or controlled by, a person described in
10 subparagraph (A);

11 (C) knowingly engages in money laun-
12 dering to carry out an activity described in sub-
13 paragraph (A) or (B);

14 (D) knowingly facilitates a significant
15 transaction or transactions or provides signifi-
16 cant financial services to carry out an activity
17 described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), in-
18 cluding facilitating a significant transaction or
19 transactions or providing significant financial
20 services that involve a transaction of gold, sil-
21 ver, platinum, or other precious metals; or

22 (E)(i) knowingly facilitates, or participates
23 or assists in, an activity described in subpara-
24 graph (A), (B), (C), or (D), including by acting
25 on behalf of, at the direction of, or as an inter-

1 mediary for, or otherwise assisting, another per-
2 son with respect to the activity described in any
3 such subparagraph;

4 (ii) knowingly attempts or conspires to fa-
5 cilitate or participate in an activity described in
6 subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

7 (iii) is owned or controlled by a foreign fi-
8 nancial institution that the Secretary finds
9 knowingly engages in an activity described in
10 subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

11 (3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
12 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
13 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
14 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
15 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
16 violation of regulations prescribed under paragraph
17 (1) of this subsection to the same extent that such
18 penalties apply to a person that commits an unlaw-
19 ful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

20 (4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the
21 Treasury shall prescribe and implement regulations
22 to carry out this subsection.

23 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
24 MAINTAINING ACCOUNTS FOR FOREIGN FINANCIAL IN-
25 STITUTIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations to require
4 a domestic financial institution maintaining a cor-
5 respondent account or payable-through account in
6 the United States for a foreign financial institution
7 to do one or more of the following:

8 (A) Report to the Department of the
9 Treasury with respect to financial transactions
10 or other financial services provided with respect
11 to any activity described in subsection (a).

12 (B) Provide timely and accurate informa-
13 tion to domestic financial institutions maintain-
14 ing a correspondent account or payable-through
15 account in the United States for a foreign fi-
16 nancial institution with respect to any activity
17 described in subsection (a).

18 (C) Establish due diligence policies, proce-
19 dures, and controls, such as the due diligence
20 policies, procedures, and controls described in
21 section 5318(i) of title 31, United States Code,
22 reasonably designed to detect whether the Sec-
23 retary of the Treasury has found the foreign fi-
24 nancial institution to knowingly engage in any
25 activity described in subsection (a).

1 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
2 sections 5321(a) and 5322 of title 31, United States
3 Code, shall apply to a person that violates a regula-
4 tion prescribed under paragraph (1) of this sub-
5 section, in the same manner and to the same extent
6 as such penalties would apply to any person that is
7 otherwise subject to such section 5321(a) or 5322.

8 (c) WAIVER.—The Secretary of the Treasury, with
9 the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in consulta-
10 tion with the heads of other applicable departments and
11 agencies, may waive the application of a prohibition or
12 condition imposed with respect to a foreign financial insti-
13 tution pursuant to subsection (a) on and after the date
14 that is 30 days after the Secretary of the Treasury, with
15 the concurrence of the Secretary of State—

16 (1) determines that such a waiver is vital to the
17 national security interests of the United States; and

18 (2) submits to the appropriate congressional
19 committees a report describing the reasons for the
20 determination.

21 (d) PROVISIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN CENTRAL
22 BANKS.—

23 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180
25 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall

1 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
2 a report that—

3 (A) identifies each foreign central bank
4 that the Secretary finds engages in one or more
5 activities described in subsection (a)(2)(D); and

6 (B) provides a detailed description of each
7 such activity.

8 (2) SPECIAL RULE TO ALLOW FOR TERMINATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall not be required to apply
9 sanctions to a foreign central bank described in the
10 report required under paragraph (1) if the Secretary
11 of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in consultation with the heads
12 of other applicable departments and agencies, certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional
13 committees that—

14 (A) the foreign central bank—

15 (i) is no longer engaging in the activity described in subsection (a)(2)(D); or

16 (ii) has taken significant verifiable steps toward terminating the activity described in subsection (a)(2)(D) not later
17 than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary makes such certification; and
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1 (B) the Secretary has received reliable as-
2 surances from the government with primary ju-
3 risdiction over the foreign central bank that the
4 foreign central bank will not engage in any ac-
5 tivity described in subsection (a)(2)(D) in the
6 future.

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

9 (A) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT;
10 PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms “ac-
11 count”, “correspondent account”, and “payable-
12 through account” have the meanings given
13 those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United
14 States Code.

15 (B) AGENT.—The term “agent” includes
16 an entity established by a person for purposes
17 of conducting transactions on behalf of the per-
18 son in order to conceal the identity of the per-
19 son.

20 (C) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
21 MITTEES.—The term “appropriate congres-
22 sional committees” means—

23 (i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
24 and the Committee on Financial Services
25 of the House of Representatives; and

1 (ii) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
2 tions and the Committee on Banking,
3 Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

4 (D) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term
5 “financial institution” means a financial insti-
6 tution specified in subparagraph (A), (B), (C),
7 (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), (M), (N),
8 (R), or (Y) of section 5312(a)(2) of title 31,
9 United States Code.

10 (E) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION;
11 DOMESTIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—

12 (i) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITU-
13 TION.—The term “foreign financial institu-
14 tion”—

15 (I) has the meaning of such term
16 as determined by the Secretary of the
17 Treasury; and

18 (II) includes a foreign central
19 bank.

20 (ii) DOMESTIC FINANCIAL INSTITU-
21 TION.—The term “domestic financial insti-
22 tution” has the meaning of such term as
23 determined by the Secretary of the Treas-
24 ury.

1 (F) MONEY LAUNDERING.—The term
2 “money laundering” means any of the activities
3 described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of sec-
4 tion 1956(a) of title 18, United States Code,
5 with respect to which penalties may be imposed
6 pursuant to such section.

7 (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The Secretary of
8 the Treasury may further define the terms used in
9 this section in the regulations prescribed under this
10 section.

11 **TITLE II—DESIGNATION OF**
12 **HEZBOLLAH AS A MAJOR**
13 **DRUG SMUGGLING ENTER-**
14 **PRISE AND A TRANSNATION-**
15 **AL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION**

16 **SEC. 201. DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS SIGNIFICANT**
17 **FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall de-
20 termine if Hezbollah meets the criteria specified for des-
21 ignation of a significant foreign narcotics trafficker under
22 the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21
23 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

24 (b) AFFIRMATIVE DETERMINATION.—If the Presi-
25 dent determines under subsection (a) that Hezbollah

1 meets the criteria set forth under the Foreign Narcotics
2 Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the
3 President shall designate Hezbollah as a significant for-
4 eign narcotics trafficker under such Act.

5 (c) NEGATIVE DETERMINATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the President determines
7 under subsection (a) that Hezbollah does not meet
8 the criteria set forth under the Foreign Narcotics
9 Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.),
10 the President shall submit to the appropriate con-
11 gressional committees a report that contains a de-
12 tailed justification as to which criteria have not been
13 met.

14 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
15 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
16 but may contain classified annex, if necessary.

17 **SEC. 202. DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A SIGNIFICANT**
18 **TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall de-
21 termine if Hezbollah meets the criteria specified for des-
22 ignation as a significant transnational criminal organiza-
23 tion under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg. 44757),
24 and the authorities granted to the President under the
25 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50

1 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50
2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and section 301 of title 3, United
3 States Code.

4 (b) AFFIRMATIVE DETERMINATION.—If the Presi-
5 dent determines under subsection (a) that Hezbollah
6 meets the criteria set forth under the orders and statutes
7 specified in subsection (a), the President shall designate
8 Hezbollah a significant transnational criminal organiza-
9 tion under such orders and statutes.

10 (c) NEGATIVE DETERMINATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the President determines
12 under subsection (a) that Hezbollah does not meet
13 the criteria set forth under the orders and statutes
14 specified in subsection (a), the President shall sub-
15 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a
16 report that contains a detailed justification as to
17 which criteria have not been met.

18 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
19 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
20 but may contain classified annex, if necessary.

21 **SEC. 203. REPORT ON HEZBOLLAH'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE**
22 **TRADE OF CONFLICT DIAMONDS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
25 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the

1 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
2 Relations of the Senate a report detailing Hezbollah's in-
3 volvement in the trade in rough diamonds outside of the
4 Kimberly Process Certification Scheme.

5 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
6 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain
7 a classified annex.

8 **SEC. 204. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES**
9 **DEFINED.**

10 In this title, the term “appropriate congressional
11 committees” means—

12 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
13 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-
14 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-
15 tives; and

16 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
17 Committee on Finance, and the Committee on the
18 Judiciary of the Senate.

19 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**
20 **PROVISIONS**

21 **SEC. 301. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

22 Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this
23 Act shall apply to the authorized intelligence activities of
24 the United States.

1 **SEC. 302. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later
3 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
4 promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementa-
5 tion of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

6 (b) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 10
7 days prior to the promulgation of regulations under sub-
8 section (a), the President shall notify the appropriate con-
9 gressional committees (as defined in section 204) of the
10 proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and
11 the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are
12 implementing.

13 **SEC. 303. TERMINATION.**

14 Any provision of this Act or amendment made by this
15 Act shall cease to be in effect beginning 30 days after the
16 date on which the President certifies to Congress that
17 Hezbollah—

18 (1) is no longer designated as a foreign ter-
19 rorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the
20 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

21 (2) is no longer listed in the Annex to Executive
22 Order 13224 (September 23, 2001; relating to
23 blocking property and prohibiting transactions with
24 persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support
25 terrorism); and

- 1 (3) poses no significant threat to United States
- 2 national security, interests, or allies.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4411
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of
4 2014”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Statement of policy.

**TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HEZBOLLAH TO
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

- Sec. 101. Report on imposition of sanctions on certain satellite providers that carry al-Manar TV.
- Sec. 102. Sanctions with respect to financial institutions that engage in certain transactions.

TITLE II—REPORTS ON DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER AND A SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

- Sec. 201. Report on designation of Hezbollah as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker.
- Sec. 202. Report on designation of Hezbollah as a significant transnational criminal organization.
- Sec. 203. Report on Hezbollah’s involvement in the trade of conflict diamonds.
- Sec. 204. Appropriate congressional committees defined.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 301. Rule of construction.
- Sec. 302. Regulatory authority.
- Sec. 303. Termination.

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

2 It shall be the policy of the United States to—

3 (1) prevent Hezbollah’s global logistics and fi-
4 nancial network from operating in order to curtail
5 funding of its domestic and international activities;
6 and

7 (2) utilize all available diplomatic, legislative,
8 and executive avenues to combat the global criminal
9 activities of Hezbollah as a means to block that or-
10 ganization’s ability to fund its global terrorist activi-
11 ties.

12 **TITLE I—PREVENTION OF AC-**
13 **CESS BY HEZBOLLAH TO**
14 **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL**
15 **AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

16 **SEC. 101. REPORT ON IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON CER-**
17 **TAIN SATELLITE PROVIDERS THAT CARRY**
18 **AL-MANAR TV.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-
21 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
22 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
23 tions of the Senate a report that includes—

24 (1) a list of all satellite, broadcast, Internet, or
25 other providers that knowingly provides material

1 support to al-Manar TV, and any affiliates or suc-
2 cessors thereof; and

3 (2) with respect to all providers included on the
4 list pursuant to paragraph (1)—

5 (A) an identification of those providers
6 that have been sanctioned pursuant to Execu-
7 tive Order 13224 (September 23, 2001); and

8 (B) an identification of those providers
9 that have not been sanctioned pursuant to Ex-
10 ecutive Order 13224 and, with respect to each
11 such provider, the reason why sanctions have
12 not been imposed.

13 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
14 shall be submitted in unclassified form to the greatest ex-
15 tent possible, and may contain a classified annex.

16 **SEC. 102. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTI-**
17 **TUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANS-**
18 **ACTIONS.**

19 (a) PROHIBITIONS AND CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT
20 TO CERTAIN ACCOUNTS HELD BY FOREIGN FINANCIAL
21 INSTITUTIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
24 retary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the
25 Secretary of State and in consultation with the

1 heads of other applicable departments and agencies,
2 shall prohibit, or impose strict conditions on, the
3 opening or maintaining in the United States of a
4 correspondent account or a payable-through account
5 by a foreign financial institution that the Secretary
6 determines, on or after the date of the enactment of
7 this Act, engages in an activity described in para-
8 graph (2).

9 (2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign finan-
10 cial institution engages in an activity described in
11 this paragraph if the foreign financial institution—

12 (A) knowingly facilitates a significant
13 transaction or transactions for Hezbollah;

14 (B) knowingly facilitates a significant
15 transaction or transactions of a person des-
16 ignated for acting on behalf of or at the direc-
17 tion of, or owned or controlled by, Hezbollah;

18 (C) knowingly engages in money laun-
19 dering to carry out an activity described in sub-
20 paragraph (A) or (B);

21 (D) knowingly facilitates a significant
22 transaction or transactions or provides signifi-
23 cant financial services to carry out an activity
24 described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), in-
25 cluding—

1 (i) facilitating a significant trans-
2 action or transactions; or

3 (ii) providing significant financial
4 services that involve a transaction of cov-
5 ered goods; or

6 (E)(i) knowingly facilitates, or participates
7 or assists in, an activity described in subpara-
8 graph (A), (B), (C), or (D), including by acting
9 on behalf of, at the direction of, or as an inter-
10 mediary for, or otherwise assisting, another per-
11 son with respect to the activity described in any
12 such subparagraph;

13 (ii) knowingly attempts or conspires to fa-
14 cilitate or participate in an activity described in
15 subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

16 (iii) is owned or controlled by a foreign fi-
17 nancial institution that the Secretary finds
18 knowingly engages in an activity described in
19 subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

20 (3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
21 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
22 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
23 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
24 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
25 violation of regulations prescribed under paragraph

1 (1) of this subsection to the same extent that such
2 penalties apply to a person that commits an unlaw-
3 ful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

4 (4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the
5 Treasury shall prescribe and implement regulations
6 to carry out this subsection.

7 (b) WAIVER.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
9 ury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State
10 and in consultation with the heads of other applica-
11 ble departments and agencies, may waive, on a case-
12 by-case basis, the application of a prohibition or con-
13 dition imposed with respect to a foreign financial in-
14 stitution pursuant to subsection (a) for a period of
15 not more than 180 days, and may renew that waiver
16 for additional periods of not more than 180 days, on
17 and after the date that the Secretary of the Treas-
18 ury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of
19 State—

20 (A) determines that such a waiver is vital
21 to the national security interests of the United
22 States; and

23 (B) submits to the appropriate congress-
24 sional committees a report describing the rea-
25 sons for the determination.

1 (2) FORM.—The report required by subpara-
2 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
3 but may contain a classified annex.

4 (e) PROVISIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN FINANCIAL
5 INSTITUTIONS.—

6 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180
8 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
9 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
10 a report that—

11 (A) identifies each foreign central bank
12 that the Secretary determines engages in one or
13 more activities described in subsection
14 (a)(2)(D); and

15 (B) provides a detailed description of each
16 such activity.

17 (2) SPECIAL RULE TO ALLOW FOR TERMI-
18 NATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITY.—The Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury shall not be required to apply
20 sanctions to a foreign financial institution described
21 in subsection (a) if the Secretary of the Treasury,
22 with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and
23 in consultation with the heads of other applicable de-
24 partments and agencies, certifies in writing to the
25 appropriate congressional committees that—

- 1 (A) the foreign financial institution—
2 (i) is no longer engaging in the activ-
3 ity described in subsection (a)(2); or
4 (ii) has taken and is continuing to
5 take significant verifiable steps toward ter-
6 minating the activity described in sub-
7 section (a)(2); and
8 (B) the Secretary has received reliable as-
9 surances from the government with primary ju-
10 risdiction over the foreign financial institution
11 that the foreign financial institution will not en-
12 gage in any activity described in subsection
13 (a)(2) in the future.

14 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

16 (A) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT;
17 PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms “ac-
18 count”, “correspondent account”, and “payable-
19 through account” have the meanings given
20 those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United
21 States Code.

22 (B) AGENT.—The term “agent” includes
23 an entity established by a person for purposes
24 of conducting transactions on behalf of the per-

1 son in order to conceal the identity of the per-
2 son.

3 (C) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
4 MITTEES.—The term “appropriate congres-
5 sional committees” means—

6 (i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
7 and the Committee on Financial Services
8 of the House of Representatives; and

9 (ii) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
10 tions and the Committee on Banking,
11 Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

12 (D) COVERED GOODS.—The term “covered
13 goods” has the meaning given the term in sec-
14 tion 1027.100 of title 31, Code of Federal Reg-
15 ulations.

16 (E) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term
17 “financial institution” means a financial insti-
18 tution specified in subparagraph (A), (B), (C),
19 (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), (M), (N),
20 (P), (R), (T), (Y), or (Z) of section 5312(a)(2)
21 of title 31, United States Code.

22 (F) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION;
23 DOMESTIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—

24 (i) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITU-
25 TION.—The term “foreign financial institu-

1 tion” has the meaning of such term in sec-
2 tion 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal
3 Regulations, and includes a foreign central
4 bank.

5 (ii) DOMESTIC FINANCIAL INSTITU-
6 TION.—The term “domestic financial insti-
7 tution” has the meaning of such term as
8 determined by the Secretary of the Treas-
9 ury.

10 (G) HEZBOLLAH.—The term “Hezbollah”
11 means—

12 (i) any person—

13 (I) the property of or interests in
14 property of which are blocked pursu-
15 ant to the International Emergency
16 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
17 1701 et seq.); and

18 (II) who is identified on the list
19 of specially designated nationals and
20 blocked persons maintained by the Of-
21 fice of Foreign Asset Control of the
22 Department of the Treasury as an
23 agent, instrumentality, or affiliate of
24 Hezbollah; and

1 (ii) the entity designated by the Sec-
2 retary of State as a foreign terrorist orga-
3 nization pursuant to section 219 of the Im-
4 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
5 1189).

6 (H) MONEY LAUNDERING.—The term
7 “money laundering” means any of the activities
8 described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of sec-
9 tion 1956(a) of title 18, United States Code,
10 with respect to which penalties may be imposed
11 pursuant to such section.

12 (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The Secretary of
13 the Treasury may further define the terms used in
14 this section in the regulations prescribed under this
15 section.

1 **TITLE II—REPORTS ON DES-**
2 **IGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS**
3 **A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN**
4 **NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER AND**
5 **A SIGNIFICANT**
6 **TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL**
7 **ORGANIZATION**

8 **SEC. 201. REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A**
9 **SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAF-**
10 **FICKER.**

11 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
12 ings:

13 (1) In 2008, after the two year Operation Titan
14 run by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
15 and Colombian authorities dismantled an inter-
16 national narcotics ring that smuggled cocaine into
17 the United States, Europe, and the Middle East,
18 and was run by Chekry Harb, also known as
19 “Taliban”. According to lead prosecutor for the spe-
20 cial prosecutor’s office in Bogota, Gladys Sanchez,
21 “The profits from the sales of drugs went to finance
22 Hezbollah.”.

23 (2) In 2011, the Department of the Treasury
24 blacklisted the Lebanese Canadian Bank as a pri-
25 mary money laundering concern, alleging that it is

1 part of a drug trafficking network that profited
2 Hezbollah by moving approximately \$200,000,000
3 per month.

4 (3) In April 2013, when the Department of the
5 Treasury blacklisted two Lebanese exchange houses,
6 Kassem Rmciti & Co. and Halawi Exchange Co., for
7 laundering drug profits for Hezbollah, it stated that
8 Hezbollah was operating like “an international drug
9 cartel,” adding that the “Halawi Exchange, through
10 its network of established international exchange
11 houses, initiated wire transfers from its bank ac-
12 counts to the United States without using the Leba-
13 nese banking system in order to avoid scrutiny asso-
14 ciated with Treasury’s designations of Hassan Ayash
15 Exchange, Elissa Exchange, and its Lebanese Cana-
16 dian Bank Section 311 Action. . .Money was then
17 wire transferred via Halawi’s banking relationships
18 indirectly to the United States through countries
19 that included China, Singapore, and the UAE, which
20 were perceived to receive less scrutiny by the U.S.
21 Government.”.

22 (4) The Department of Justice reported that 29
23 of the 63 organizations on its FY 2010 Consolidated
24 Priority Organization Targets list, which includes
25 the most significant international drug trafficking

1 organizations (DTOs) threatening the United States,
2 were associated with terrorist groups, and noted
3 with concern Hezbollah's international drug and
4 criminal activities.

5 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
6 gress that—

7 (1) Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation
8 as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker as set
9 forth in the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation
10 Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); and

11 (2) the President should so designate Hezbollah
12 as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker.

13 (c) REPORT.—

14 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30
15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
16 President shall submit to the appropriate congress-
17 sional committees—

18 (A) a detailed report on whether the
19 Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation
20 under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designa-
21 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) as a signifi-
22 cant foreign narcotics trafficker; and

23 (B) if the President determines that
24 Hezbollah does not meet the criteria for des-
25 ignation under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin

1 Designation Act as a significant foreign nar-
2 cotics trafficker, a detailed justification as to
3 which criteria have not been met.

4 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
5 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
6 include a classified annex.

7 **SEC. 202. REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A**
8 **SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL OR-**
9 **GANIZATION.**

10 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
11 ings:

12 (1) Hezbollah is engaged array of illicit activi-
13 ties, from counterfeiting currencies, passport docu-
14 ments, to stolen automobile rings and other illicit ac-
15 tivities.

16 (2) In 2002, authorities in Charlotte, North
17 Carolina arrested members of a cell run by Moham-
18 med and Chawki Hamoud and convicted them on
19 various charges, including funding the activities of
20 Hezbollah from proceeds of interstate cigarette
21 smuggling and money laundering.

22 (3) In 2006 the the Department of the Treas-
23 ury designated operations of Assad Barakat, treas-
24 urer for Hezbollah, as providing material support for
25 a foreign terrorist organization and noted that

1 Barakat had engaged in mafia-style shakedowns and
2 “threatened TBA (triborder area) shopkeepers who
3 are sympathetic to Hezbollah’s cause with having
4 family members in Lebanon placed on a ‘Hezbollah
5 blacklist’ if they did not pay their quota to
6 Hezbollah” and also was “involved in a counter-
7 feiting ring that distributes fake U.S. dollars and
8 generates cash to fund Hezbollah operations”.

9 (4) In 2009, Paraguayan authorities arrested
10 Moussa Hamdan and three other individuals for sell-
11 ing fraudulent passports and trafficking in counter-
12 feit money and sporting goods, illegally obtained
13 consumer electronics and automobiles and then
14 using the proceeds to buy arms for Hezbollah.

15 (5) In October 2011, a group of businessmen
16 pled guilty to attempting to ship electronics to a
17 shopping center in South America that the Depart-
18 ment of the Treasury had designated as a Hezbollah
19 front.

20 (6) A June 2014 “threat assessment” report by
21 Canada’s Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre
22 indicated that Hezbollah members in Canada are in-
23 volved in organized crime.

24 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that—

1 (1) Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation
2 as a significant transnational criminal organization
3 under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg. 44757);
4 and

5 (2) the President should so designate Hezbollah
6 as a significant transnational criminal organization.

7 (c) REPORT.—

8 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30
9 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
10 President shall submit to the appropriate commit-
11 tees of Congress—

12 (A) a detailed report on whether the
13 Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation as
14 a significant transnational criminal organization
15 under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg.
16 44757); and

17 (B) if the President determines that
18 Hezbollah does not meet the criteria for des-
19 ignation as a significant transnational criminal
20 organization under Executive Order 13581, a
21 detailed justification as to which criteria have
22 not been met.

23 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
24 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
25 include a classified annex.

1 **SEC. 203. REPORT ON HEZBOLLAH'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE**
2 **TRADE OF CONFLICT DIAMONDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
5 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
6 Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of
8 the Senate a report detailing Hezbollah's involvement in
9 the trade in rough diamonds outside of the Kimberly Proc-
10 ess Certification Scheme.

11 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
12 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain
13 a classified annex.

14 **SEC. 204. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES**
15 **DEFINED.**

16 In this title, the term “appropriate congressional
17 committees” means—

18 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
19 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-
20 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-
21 tives; and

22 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
23 Committee on Finance, and the Committee on the
24 Judiciary of the Senate.

1 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**
2 **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 301. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

4 Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this
5 Act shall apply to the authorized intelligence activities of
6 the United States.

7 **SEC. 302. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall, not later
9 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
10 promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementa-
11 tion of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

12 (b) **NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.**—Not less than 10
13 days prior to the promulgation of regulations under sub-
14 section (a), the President shall notify the appropriate con-
15 gressional committees (as defined in section 204) of the
16 proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and
17 the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are
18 implementing.

19 **SEC. 303. TERMINATION.**

20 This Act shall cease to be in effect beginning 30 days
21 after the date on which the President certifies to Congress
22 that Hezbollah—

23 (1) is no longer designated as a foreign ter-
24 rorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the
25 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

1 (2) is no longer listed in the Annex to Executive
2 Order 13224 (September 23, 2001; relating to
3 blocking property and prohibiting transactions with
4 persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support
5 terrorism); and

6 (3) poses no significant threat to United States
7 national security, interests, or allies.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4411
OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS AND MR.
SHERMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Redesignate section 204 as section 205.

Insert after section 203 the following new section:

1 **SEC. 204. REWARDS FOR JUSTICE AND HEZBOLLAH'S FUND-**
2 **RAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUN-**
3 **DERING ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
6 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
7 port that details actions taken by the Department of State
8 through the Department of State rewards program (22
9 U.S.C. 2708) to obtain information on fundraising, fi-
10 nancing, and money laundering activities of Hezbollah and
11 its agents and affiliates.

12 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
14 Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appro-
15 priate congressional committees on the status of the ac-
16 tions described in subsection (a).

1 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
3 sional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Af-
4 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee
5 on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

In section 205 (as redesignated), strike “In this title” and insert “Except as otherwise provided, in this title”.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4411
OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS OF FLORIDA, MR.
DEUTCH OF FLORIDA, AND MS. MENG OF
NEW YORK**

Page 14, beginning on line 14, strike “30 days” and insert “120 days”.

Page 17, beginning on line 8, strike “30 days” and insert “120 days”.

Redesignate section 204 as section 205.

After section 203, insert the following:

- 1 **SEC. 204. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERN-**
2 **MENTS TO DISRUPT GLOBAL LOGISTICS NET-**
3 **WORKS AND FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND**
4 **MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES OF**
5 **HEZBOLLAH.**
6 (a) REPORT.—
7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
9 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees a report that includes—

1 (A) a list of countries that support
2 Hezbollah, or in which Hezbollah maintains im-
3 portant portions of its global logistics networks;

4 (B) with respect to each country on the list
5 required by subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) an assessment of whether the gov-
7 ernment of the country is taking adequate
8 measures to disrupt the global logistics
9 networks of Hezbollah within the territory
10 of the country; and

11 (ii) in the case of a country the gov-
12 ernment of which is not taking adequate
13 measures to disrupt those networks—

14 (I) an assessment of the reasons
15 that government is not taking ade-
16 quate measures to disrupt those net-
17 works; and

18 (II) a description of measures
19 being taken by the United States Gov-
20 ernment to encourage that govern-
21 ment to improve measures to disrupt
22 those networks;

23 (C) a list of countries in which Hezbollah,
24 or any of its agents or affiliates, conducts sig-

1 nificant fundraising, financing, or money laun-
2 dering activities;

3 (D) with respect to each country on the
4 list required by subparagraph (C)—

5 (i) an assessment of whether the gov-
6 ernment of the country is taking adequate
7 measures to disrupt the fundraising, fi-
8 nancing, or money laundering activities of
9 Hezbollah and its agents and affiliates
10 within the territory of the country; and

11 (ii) in the case of a country the gov-
12 ernment of which is not taking adequate
13 measures to disrupt those activities—

14 (I) an assessment of the reasons
15 that government is not taking ade-
16 quate measures to disrupt those ac-
17 tivities; and

18 (II) a description of measures
19 being taken by the United States Gov-
20 ernment to encourage the government
21 of that country to improve measures
22 to disrupt those activities; and

23 (E) a list of methods that Hezbollah, or
24 any of its agents or affiliates, utilizes to raise
25 or transfer funds, including trade-based money

1 laundrying, the use of foreign exchange houses,
2 and free-trade zones.

3 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
4 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the
5 greatest extent possible, and may contain a classified
6 annex.

7 (3) GLOBAL LOGISTICS NETWORKS OF
8 HEZBOLLAH.—In this subsection, the term “global
9 logistics networks of Hezbollah”, “global logistics
10 networks”, or “networks” means financial, material,
11 or technological support for, or financial or other
12 services in support of, Hezbollah.

13 (b) BRIEFING ON HEZBOLLAH’S ASSETS AND AC-
14 TIVITIES RELATED TO FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND
15 MONEY LAUNDERING WORLDWIDE.—

16 (1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180
18 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, the Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury, and the heads of other appli-
20 cable Federal departments and agencies (or their
21 designees) shall provide to the appropriate congres-
22 sional committees a briefing on the disposition of
23 Hezbollah’s assets and activities related to fund-
24 raising, financing, and money laundering worldwide.

1 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
3 sional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
5 Committee on Financial Services, and the Perma-
6 nent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House
7 of Representatives; and

8 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
9 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
10 fairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of
11 the Senate.

In section 205 (as redesignated), strike “In this title” and insert “Except as otherwise provided, in this title”.



113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4640

To establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SIREN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. O'ROURKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission.

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 “Western Hemisphere
5 Drug Policy Commission Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to the Substance Abuse and Men-
9 tal Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA)
10 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2012

1 in the United States, an estimated 23,900,000 per-
2 sons age 12 or older were current drug users. There
3 were an estimated 1,600,000 users of cocaine,
4 440,000 users of methamphetamine, 335,000 users
5 of heroin, 18,900,000 users of marijuana, and
6 6,800,000 non-medical users of prescription-type
7 drugs.

8 (2) On September 13, 2013, President Barack
9 Obama identified 22 countries as major drug transit
10 or major illicit drug producing countries. Of these,
11 17 are located in the Western Hemisphere. They are
12 The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica,
13 the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador,
14 Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico,
15 Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

16 (3) Nearly all cocaine consumed in the United
17 States originates in the Andean countries of Bolivia,
18 Colombia, and Peru and most of the heroin con-
19 sumed in the United States originates in Colombia
20 and Mexico. The cultivation, production and traf-
21 ficking of cocaine and heroin generate violence, in-
22 stability, and corruption.

23 (4) In the transit countries of Central America,
24 Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, the Dominican Repub-
25 lic, Haiti, and other Caribbean countries, drug traf-

1 trafficking is central to the growing strength of orga-
2 nized criminals to threaten local and national law
3 enforcement, political institutions, citizen security,
4 rule of law, and United States security and inter-
5 ests.

6 (5) Drug trafficking-related violence continues
7 unabated in Mexico. According to Government of
8 Mexico estimates, some 70,000 people died in Mex-
9 ico and 25,000 people disappeared as a result of
10 drug trafficking and organized crime-related violence
11 between December 2006 and December 2012. Ac-
12 cording to analysts, more than 11,500 more people
13 died in Mexico in 2013 due to the violence.

14 (6) Foreign Terrorist Organizations and their
15 supporters in the Western Hemisphere, including the
16 Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
17 and Hezbollah, have used drug trafficking to finance
18 their activities.

19 (7) The United States obligated roughly
20 \$15,700,000,000 (\$18,600,000,000 in constant
21 2012 dollars) for counternarcotics programs in
22 Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and
23 2012.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 There is established an independent commission to be
3 known as the “Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commis-
4 sion” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

5 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

6 (a) **REVIEW OF ILLICIT DRUG CONTROL POLICIES.**—

7 The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of
8 United States foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere
9 to reduce the illicit drug supply and drug abuse and re-
10 duce the damage associated with illicit drug markets and
11 trafficking. The Commission shall also identify policy and
12 program options to improve existing international counter-
13 narcotics policy. The review shall include the following top-
14 ics:

15 (1) An evaluation of United States-funded
16 international illicit drug control programs in the
17 Western Hemisphere, including drug interdiction,
18 crop eradication, alternative development, drug pro-
19 duction surveys, police and justice sector training,
20 demand reduction, and strategies to target drug
21 kingpins.

22 (2) An evaluation of the impact of United
23 States counternarcotics assistance programs in the
24 Western Hemisphere, including the Colombia Stra-
25 tegic Development Initiative, the Merida Initiative,
26 the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative and the Cen-

1 tral America Regional Security Initiative, in curbing
2 drug production, drug trafficking, and drug-related
3 violence and improving citizen security.

4 (3) An evaluation of how the President's annual
5 determination of major drug-transit and major illicit
6 drug producing countries pursuant to sections 490
7 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
8 2291j) and section 706 of the Foreign Relations Au-
9 thorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2291j-
10 1) serves United States interests with respect to
11 United States international illicit drug control poli-
12 cies.

13 (4) An evaluation of whether the proper indica-
14 tors of success are being used to evaluate United
15 States international illicit drug control policy.

16 (5) An evaluation of United States efforts to
17 stop illicit proceeds from drug trafficking organiza-
18 tions from entering the United States financial sys-
19 tem.

20 (6) An evaluation of alternative drug policy
21 models in the Western Hemisphere.

22 (7) An evaluation of the impact of local drug
23 consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean in
24 promoting violence and insecurity.

1 (8) Recommendations on how best to improve
2 United States counternarcotics policies in the West-
3 ern Hemisphere.

4 (b) COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, INTER-
5 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NONGOVERNMENTAL
6 ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—In
7 conducting the review required under subsection (a), the
8 Commission is encouraged to consult with—

9 (1) government, academic, and nongovern-
10 mental leaders, as well as leaders from international
11 organizations, from throughout the United States,
12 Latin America, and the Caribbean; and

13 (2) the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control
14 Commission (CICAD).

15 (c) REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the first meeting of the Commission, the Commis-
18 sion shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
19 fairs of the House of Representatives, the Com-
20 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Sec-
21 retary of State, and the Director of the Office of
22 National Drug Control Policy a report that con-
23 tains—

1 (A) a detailed statement of the rec-
2 ommendations, findings, and conclusions of the
3 Commission under subsection (a); and

4 (B) summaries of the input and rec-
5 ommendations of the leaders and organizations
6 with which the Commission consulted under
7 subsection (b).

8 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report re-
9 quired under this subsection shall be made available
10 to the public.

11 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

12 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
13 shall be composed of ten members to be appointed as fol-
14 lows:

15 (1) The majority leader and minority leader of
16 the Senate shall each appoint 2 members.

17 (2) The Speaker and the minority leader of the
18 House of Representatives shall each appoint 2 mem-
19 bers.

20 (3) The President shall appoint 2 members.

21 (b) PROHIBITION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may not in-
23 clude Members of Congress or Federal, State, or
24 local government officials.

1 (2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—In this sub-
2 section, the term “Member of Congress” includes a
3 Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

4 (e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Each member shall
5 be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancies
6 shall not affect the power and duties of the Commission,
7 but shall be filled in the same manner as the original ap-
8 pointment.

9 (d) DATE.—Members of the Commission shall be ap-
10 pointed not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act.

12 (e) INITIAL MEETING AND SELECTION OF CHAIR-
13 PERSON.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
16 sion shall hold an initial meeting to develop and im-
17 plement a schedule for completion of the review and
18 report required under section 4.

19 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—At the initial meeting, the
20 Commission shall select a Chairperson from among
21 its members.

22 (f) QUORUM.—Six members of the Commission shall
23 constitute a quorum.

24 (g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members shall receive trav-
25 el expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in

1 accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United
2 States Code, while away from their homes or regular
3 places of business in performance of services for the Com-
4 mission.

5 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

6 (a) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
7 call of the Chairperson or a majority of its members.

8 (b) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such
9 hearings and undertake such other activities as the Com-
10 mission determines necessary to carry out its duties.

11 (c) OTHER RESOURCES.—

12 (1) DOCUMENTS, STATISTICAL DATA, AND
13 OTHER SUCH INFORMATION.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
15 have reasonable access to documents, statistical
16 data, and other such information the Commis-
17 sion determines necessary to carry out its du-
18 ties from the Library of Congress, the Office of
19 National Drug Control Policy, the Department
20 of State, and other agencies of the executive
21 and legislative branches of the Federal Govern-
22 ment.

23 (B) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The
24 Chairperson of the Commission shall request
25 the head of an agency described in subpara-

1 graph (A) for access to documents, statistical
2 data, or other such information described in
3 subparagraph (A) that is under the control of
4 such agency in writing when necessary.

5 (2) OFFICE SPACE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUP-
6 PORT.—The General Services Administration shall
7 make office space available for day-to-day activities
8 of the Commission and for scheduled meetings of the
9 Commission. Upon request, the Administrator of
10 General Services shall provide, on a reimbursable
11 basis, such administrative support as the Commis-
12 sion requests to fulfill its duties.

13 (d) AUTHORITY TO USE UNITED STATES MAILS.—
14 The Commission may use the United States mails in the
15 same manner and under the same conditions as other de-
16 partments and agencies of the United States.

17 (e) AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the Federal Prop-
19 erty and Administrative Services Act of 1949, the
20 Commission is authorized to enter into contracts
21 with Federal and State agencies, private firms, insti-
22 tutions, and individuals for the conduct of activities
23 necessary to the discharge of its duties under section
24 4.

1 (2) TERMINATION.—A contract, lease, or other
2 legal agreement entered into by the Commission may
3 not extend beyond the date of termination of the
4 Commission.

5 **SEC. 7. STAFF.**

6 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-
7 tor who shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Com-
8 mission. The Director shall be paid at a rate not to exceed
9 the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Sched-
10 ule.

11 (b) STAFF.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the
13 Commission, the Director may appoint such per-
14 sonnel as the Director determines to be appropriate.
15 Such personnel shall be paid at a rate not to exceed
16 the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive
17 Schedule.

18 (2) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Commission may
19 appoint and fix the compensation of such other per-
20 sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Commis-
21 sion to carry out its duties, without regard to the
22 provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing
23 appointments in the competitive service, and without
24 regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
25 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to

1 classification and General Schedule pay rates, except
2 that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may
3 exceed the equivalent of that payable to a person oc-
4 cupying a position at level V of the Executive Sched-
5 ule.

6 (c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the ap-
7 proval of the Commission, the Director may procure tem-
8 porary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of
9 title 5, United States Code.

10 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon
11 the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal
12 agency may detail, without reimbursement, any of the per-
13 sonnel of such agency to the Commission to assist in car-
14 rying out the duties of the Commission. Any such detail
15 shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the civil service sta-
16 tus or privileges of the personnel.

17 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
19 priated \$2,000,000 to carry out this Act.

20 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be appro-
21 priated under subsection (a) are authorized to remain
22 available until expended.

23 **SEC. 9. OFFSET.**

24 Section 102(a) of the Enhanced Partnership with
25 Pakistan Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 8412(a); Public Law

1 111-73; 123 Stat. 2068) is amended by striking
2 “\$1,500,000,000” and inserting “\$1,498,000,000”.

3 **SEC. 10. SUNSET.**

4 The Commission shall terminate on the date that is
5 60 days after the date on which the Commission submits
6 its to Congress of its report pursuant to section 4(c).

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4640
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Western Hemisphere
3 Drug Policy Commission Act of 2014”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) According to the Substance Abuse and Men-
7 tal Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA)
8 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2012
9 in the United States, an estimated 23,900,000 per-
10 sons age 12 or older were current users of illicit
11 drugs. There were an estimated 1,600,000 users of
12 cocaine, 440,000 users of methamphetamine,
13 335,000 users of heroin, 18,900,000 users of mari-
14 juana, and 6,800,000 non-medical users of prescrip-
15 tion-type drugs.

16 (2) On September 13, 2013, President Barack
17 Obama identified 22 countries as major drug transit
18 or major illicit drug producing countries. Of these,

1 17 are located in the Western Hemisphere. They are
2 The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica,
3 the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador,
4 Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico,
5 Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

6 (3) Nearly all cocaine consumed in the United
7 States originates in the Andean countries of Bolivia,
8 Colombia, and Peru and most of the heroin con-
9 sumed in the United States originates in Colombia
10 and Mexico. The cultivation, production and traf-
11 ficking of cocaine and heroin generate violence, in-
12 stability, and corruption.

13 (4) In the transit countries of Central America,
14 Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, the Dominican Repub-
15 lic, Haiti, and other Caribbean countries, drug traf-
16 ficking is central to the growing strength of orga-
17 nized criminals to threaten local and national law
18 enforcement, political institutions, citizen security,
19 rule of law, and United States security and inter-
20 ests.

21 (5) Drug trafficking-related violence continues
22 unabated in Mexico. According to Government of
23 Mexico estimates, some 70,000 people died in Mex-
24 ico and 25,000 people disappeared as a result of
25 drug trafficking and organized crime-related violence

1 between December 2006 and December 2012. Ac-
2 cording to analysts, more than 11,500 more people
3 died in Mexico in 2013 due to the violence.

4 (6) Foreign Terrorist Organizations and their
5 supporters in the Western Hemisphere, including the
6 Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
7 and Hezbollah, have used drug trafficking to finance
8 their activities.

9 (7) The United States obligated roughly
10 \$15,700,000,000 (\$18,600,000,000 in constant
11 2012 dollars) for counternarcotics programs in
12 Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and
13 2012.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

15 There is established an independent commission to be
16 known as the “Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commis-
17 sion” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

18 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

19 (a) REVIEW OF ILLICIT DRUG CONTROL POLICIES.—
20 The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of
21 United States foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere
22 to reduce the illicit drug supply and drug abuse and re-
23 duce the damage associated with illicit drug markets and
24 trafficking. The Commission shall also identify policy and
25 program options to improve existing international counter-

1 narcotics policy. The review shall include the following top-
2 ics:

3 (1) An evaluation of United States-funded
4 international illicit drug control programs in the
5 Western Hemisphere, including drug interdiction,
6 crop eradication, alternative development, drug pro-
7 duction surveys, police and justice sector training,
8 demand reduction, and strategies to target drug
9 kingpins.

10 (2) An evaluation of the impact of United
11 States counternarcotics assistance programs in the
12 Western Hemisphere, including the Colombia Stra-
13 tegic Development Initiative, the Merida Initiative,
14 the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative and the Cen-
15 tral America Regional Security Initiative, in curbing
16 drug production, drug trafficking, and drug-related
17 violence and improving citizen security.

18 (3) An evaluation of how the President's annual
19 determination of major drug-transit and major illicit
20 drug producing countries pursuant to sections 490
21 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
22 2291j) and section 706 of the Foreign Relations Au-
23 thorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2291j-
24 1) serves United States interests with respect to

1 United States international illicit drug control poli-
2 cies.

3 (4) An evaluation of whether the proper indica-
4 tors of success are being used to evaluate United
5 States international illicit drug control policy.

6 (5) An evaluation of United States efforts to
7 stop illicit proceeds from drug trafficking organiza-
8 tions from entering the United States financial sys-
9 tem.

10 (6) An evaluation of the links between the ille-
11 gal narcotics trade in the Western Hemisphere and
12 terrorist activities around the world.

13 (7) An evaluation of United States efforts to
14 combat narco-terrorism in the Western Hemisphere.

15 (8) An evaluation of alternative drug policy
16 models in the Western Hemisphere.

17 (9) An evaluation of the impact of local drug
18 consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean in
19 promoting violence and insecurity.

20 (10) Recommendations on how best to improve
21 United States counternarcotics policies in the West-
22 ern Hemisphere.

23 (b) COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, INTER-
24 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NONGOVERNMENTAL
25 ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—In

1 conducting the review required under subsection (a), the
2 Commission is encouraged to consult with—

3 (1) government, academic, and nongovern-
4 mental leaders, as well as leaders from international
5 organizations, from throughout the United States,
6 Latin America, and the Caribbean; and

7 (2) the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control
8 Commission (CICAD).

9 (c) REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
11 the first meeting of the Commission, the Commis-
12 sion shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
13 fairs of the House of Representatives, the Com-
14 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Sec-
15 retary of State, and the Director of the Office of
16 National Drug Control Policy a report that con-
17 tains—

18 (A) a detailed statement of the rec-
19 ommendations, findings, and conclusions of the
20 Commission under subsection (a); and

21 (B) summaries of the input and rec-
22 ommendations of the leaders and organizations
23 with which the Commission consulted under
24 subsection (b).

1 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report re-
2 quired under this subsection shall be made available
3 to the public.

4 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

5 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
6 shall be composed of ten members to be appointed as fol-
7 lows:

8 (1) The majority leader and minority leader of
9 the Senate shall each appoint 2 members.

10 (2) The Speaker and the minority leader of the
11 House of Representatives shall each appoint 2 mem-
12 bers.

13 (3) The President shall appoint 2 members.

14 (b) PROHIBITION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may not in-
16 clude—

17 (A) Members of Congress or former Mem-
18 bers of Congress; or

19 (B) Federal, State, or local government of-
20 ficials.

21 (2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—In this sub-
22 section, the term “Member of Congress” includes a
23 Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

24 (c) APPOINTMENT OF INITIAL MEMBERS.—The ini-
25 tial members of the Commission shall be appointed not

1 later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this
2 Act.

3 (d) VACANCIES.— Any vacancies shall not affect the
4 power and duties of the Commission, but shall be filled
5 in the same manner as the original appointment. An ap-
6 pointment required by subsection (a) should be made with-
7 in 90 days of a vacancy on the Commission.

8 (e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Each member shall
9 be appointed for the life of the Commission.

10 (f) INITIAL MEETING AND SELECTION OF CHAIR-
11 PERSON.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
14 sion shall hold an initial meeting to develop and im-
15 plement a schedule for completion of the review and
16 report required under section 4.

17 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—At the initial meeting, the
18 Commission shall select a Chairperson from among
19 its members.

20 (g) QUORUM.—Six members of the Commission shall
21 constitute a quorum.

22 (h) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members shall receive trav-
23 el expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in
24 accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United
25 States Code, while away from their homes or regular

1 places of business in performance of services for the Com-
2 mission.

3 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

4 (a) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
5 call of the Chairperson or a majority of its members.

6 (b) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such
7 hearings and undertake such other activities as the Com-
8 mission determines necessary to carry out its duties.

9 (c) OTHER RESOURCES.—

10 (1) DOCUMENTS, STATISTICAL DATA, AND
11 OTHER SUCH INFORMATION.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Library of Con-
13 gress, the Office of National Drug Control Pol-
14 icy, the Department of State and any other
15 Federal department or agency shall provide rea-
16 sonable access to documents, statistical data,
17 and other such information the Commission de-
18 termines necessary to carry out its duties.

19 (B) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The
20 Chairperson of the Commission shall request
21 the head of an agency described in subpara-
22 graph (A) for access to documents, statistical
23 data, or other such information described in
24 subparagraph (A) that is under the control of
25 such agency in writing when necessary.

1 (2) OFFICE SPACE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUP-
2 PORT.—The General Services Administration shall
3 make office space available for day-to-day activities
4 of the Commission and for scheduled meetings of the
5 Commission. Upon request, the Administrator of
6 General Services shall provide, on a reimbursable
7 basis, such administrative support as the Commis-
8 sion requests to fulfill its duties.

9 (d) AUTHORITY TO USE UNITED STATES MAILS.—
10 The Commission may use the United States mails in the
11 same manner and under the same conditions as other de-
12 partments and agencies of the United States.

13 (e) AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the Federal Prop-
15 erty and Administrative Services Act of 1949, the
16 Commission is authorized to enter into contracts
17 with Federal and State agencies, private firms, insti-
18 tutions, and individuals for the conduct of activities
19 necessary to the discharge of its duties under section
20 4.

21 (2) TERMINATION.—A contract, lease, or other
22 legal agreement entered into by the Commission may
23 not extend beyond the date of termination of the
24 Commission.

1 **SEC. 7. STAFF.**

2 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-
3 tor who shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Com-
4 mission. The Director shall be paid at a rate not to exceed
5 the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Sched-
6 ule.

7 (b) STAFF.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the
9 Commission, the Director may appoint such per-
10 sonnel as the Director determines to be appropriate.
11 Such personnel shall be paid at a rate not to exceed
12 the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive
13 Schedule.

14 (2) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Commission may
15 appoint and fix the compensation of such other per-
16 sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Commis-
17 sion to carry out its duties, without regard to the
18 provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing
19 appointments in the competitive service, and without
20 regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
21 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to
22 classification and General Schedule pay rates, except
23 that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may
24 exceed the equivalent of that payable to a person oc-
25 cupying a position at level V of the Executive Sched-
26 ule.

1 (c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the ap-
2 proval of the Commission, the Director may procure tem-
3 porary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of
4 title 5, United States Code.

5 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon
6 the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal
7 agency may detail, without reimbursement, any of the per-
8 sonnel of such agency to the Commission to assist in car-
9 rying out the duties of the Commission. Any such detail
10 shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the civil service sta-
11 tus or privileges of the personnel.

12 (e) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwithstanding sec-
13 tion 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission
14 may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services
15 as the Commission determines necessary.

16 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
18 priated an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to carry out
19 this Act.

20 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be appro-
21 priated under subsection (a) are authorized to remain
22 available until expended.

23 **SEC. 9. OFFSET.**

24 Section 102(a) of the Enhanced Partnership with
25 Pakistan Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 8412(a); Public Law

1 111-73; 123 Stat. 2068) is amended by striking
2 “\$1,500,000,000” and inserting “\$1,498,500,000”.

3 **SEC. 10. SUNSET.**

4 The Commission shall terminate on the date that is
5 60 days after the date on which the Commission submits
6 its report to Congress pursuant to section 4(c).



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4640
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS**

Page 5, after line 14, insert the following new paragraph (and redesignate subsequent paragraphs accordingly):

- 1 (8) An evaluation of the financing of foreign
- 2 terrorist organizations by drug trafficking organiza-
- 3 tions and an evaluation of United States efforts to
- 4 stop such activities.



113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4653

To reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2014

Mr. WOLF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, 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 “United States Commis-
5 sion on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization
6 Act of 2014”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 201 of
9 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
10 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by inserting before the period

1 at the end the following: “, which shall be an independent
2 Federal Government advisory body”.

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—Subsection (b)(3) of section 201
4 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
5 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking “The appointments
6 required by paragraph (1) shall be made not later than
7 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.”
8 and inserting the following: “The President and Members
9 of Congress are encouraged to appoint members of the
10 Commission within 90 days of a vacancy on the Commis-
11 sion.”.

12 (c) VACANCIES.—Subsection (g) of section 201 of the
13 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
14 6431) is amended by striking the second sentence.

15 **SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

16 Subsection (a) of section 708 of the Foreign Service
17 Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

18 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),

19 (A) by striking “and the director” and in-
20 serting “the director”; and

21 (B) inserting “and members of the United
22 States Commission on International Religious
23 Freedom,” after “Training Center.”; and

24 (2) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by striking “and the various” and in-
2 sserting “the various”; and

3 (B) by inserting “, the relationship be-
4 tween religious freedom and security, and the
5 role of religious freedom in United States for-
6 eign policy” after “violations of religious free-
7 dom”.

8 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 204 of
10 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
11 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended in the second sentence, by in-
12 sserting “voting” after “nine”.

13 (b) COMPENSATION.—Subsection (b) of section 204
14 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
15 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting “voting members
16 of the” after “The”.

17 (c) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Subsection (e) of sec-
18 tion 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of
19 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by adding at the end
20 the following new sentence: “The Department of State is
21 encouraged to allow Commissioners and Commission staff
22 with the appropriate security clearance access to classified
23 information, in order to fulfill the duties and responsibil-
24 ities of their positions.”.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Subsection (a) of section 207 of the International Re-
3 ligious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435) is amended
4 by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”.

5 **SEC. 6. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.**

6 Paragraph (2) of section 208(d)(2) of the Inter-
7 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
8 6435a(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing new subparagraph:

10 “(H) Intern, fellowship, and volunteer pro-
11 grams that are primarily of educational benefit
12 to the intern, fellow, or volunteer. Sponsoring
13 private parties may provide compensation and
14 benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers, pro-
15 vided that no conflict of interest arises.”.

16 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

17 Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom
18 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking
19 “September 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30,
20 2019”.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4653
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States Commis-
3 sion on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization
4 Act of 2014”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) of section 201 of
7 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
8 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by inserting before the period
9 at the end the following: “, which shall be an independent
10 Federal Government advisory body”.

11 (b) **SELECTION.**—Subparagraph (A) of section
12 201(b)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of
13 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(2)) is amended by inserting at
14 the end the following new sentence: “The Commission as
15 a whole shall also have expertise on the variety of faiths
16 practiced around the world.”.

17 (c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—Subsection (b)(3) of section 201
18 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22

1 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking “The appointments
2 required by paragraph (1) shall be made not later than
3 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.”
4 and inserting the following: “An appointment required by
5 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) should be made within
6 90 days of a vacancy on the Commission.”.

7 (d) VACANCIES.—Subsection (g) of section 201 of the
8 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
9 6431) is amended by striking the second sentence.

10 **SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

11 Subsection (a) of section 708 of the Foreign Service
12 Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

13 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),

14 (A) by striking “and the director” and in-
15 sserting “the director”; and

16 (B) inserting “and members of the United
17 States Commission on International Religious
18 Freedom,” after “Training Center,”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “and the various” and in-
21 sserting “the various”; and

22 (B) by inserting “, the relationship be-
23 tween religious freedom and security, and the
24 role of religious freedom in United States for-

1 eign policy” after “violations of religious free-
2 dom”.

3 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 204 of
5 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
6 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended in the second sentence, by in-
7 serting “voting” after “nine”.

8 (b) COMPENSATION.—Subsection (b) of section 204
9 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
10 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting “voting members
11 of the” after “The”.

12 (c) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Subsection (e) of sec-
13 tion 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of
14 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by adding at the end
15 the following new sentence: “The Department of State is
16 encouraged to allow Commissioners and Commission staff
17 with the appropriate security clearance access to classified
18 information, in order to fulfill the duties and responsibil-
19 ities of their positions.”.

20 **SEC. 5. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.**

21 Paragraph (2) of section 208(d)(2) of the Inter-
22 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
23 6435a(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing new subparagraph:

1 “(H) Intern, fellowship, and volunteer pro-
2 grams that are primarily of educational benefit
3 to the intern, fellow, or volunteer. Sponsoring
4 private parties may provide compensation and
5 benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers, pro-
6 vided that no conflict of interest arises. The
7 number, duration, and funding source of any
8 such internship, fellowship, or volunteer pro-
9 grams shall be described in the annual financial
10 report required by subsection (e).”.

11 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

12 The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 is
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a) of section 207 (22 U.S.C.
15 6435), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”;
16 and

17 (2) in section 209 (22 U.S.C. 6436), by striking
18 “September 30, 2014” and inserting “September
19 30, 2019”.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4653
OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK**

Page 3, after line 19, insert the following:

- 1 (d) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—
- 2 Subsection (g) of section 204 of the International Reli-
- 3 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended
- 4 by inserting “, including discrimination on the basis of re-
- 5 ligion” after “employment discrimination”.



113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 435

Calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history.

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their 7 children;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas, after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, Robert Levinson disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas, in December 2007, Robert Levinson's wife, Christine, traveled to Kish Island to retrace Mr. Levinson's steps and met with officials of the Government of Iran who pledged to help in the investigation;

Whereas, for more than 6 years, the United States Government has continually pressed the Government of Iran to provide any information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson and to help ensure his prompt and safe return to his family;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Levinson family received a video of Mr. Levinson in captivity, representing the first proof of life since his disappearance and providing some initial indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas, in April 2011, the Levinson family received a series of pictures of Mr. Levinson, which provided further indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas Secretary John Kerry stated on August 28, 2013, "The United States respectfully asks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to work cooperatively with us in our efforts to help U.S. citizen Robert Levinson.";

Whereas, on September 28, 2013, during the first direct phone conversation between the leaders of the United States and Iran since 1979, President Barack Obama raised the case of Robert Levinson to President of Iran

Hassan Rouhani and urged the President of Iran to help locate Mr. Levinson and reunite him with his family;

Whereas November 26, 2013, marked the 2,455th day since Mr. Levinson's disappearance, making him one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history; and

Whereas the FBI has announced a \$1,000,000 reward for information leading to Mr. Levinson's safe return: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes that Robert Levinson is one of
3 the longest held United States civilians in our Na-
4 tion's history;

5 (2) notes recent pledges by newly appointed of-
6 ficials of the Government of Iran to provide their
7 Government's assistance in the case of Robert
8 Levinson;

9 (3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humani-
10 tarian gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the
11 case of Robert Levinson and to immediately share
12 the results of its investigation into the disappearance
13 of Robert Levinson with the United States Govern-
14 ment;

15 (4) urges the President and the allies of the
16 United States to continue to raise with officials of
17 the Government of Iran the case of Robert Levinson
18 at every opportunity, notwithstanding other serious

1 disagreements the United States Government has
2 had with the Government of Iran on a broad array
3 of issues, including human rights, the nuclear pro-
4 gram of Iran, the Middle East peace process, re-
5 gional stability, and international terrorism; and

6 (5) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert
7 Levinson for their anguish and expresses hope that
8 their ordeal can be brought to an end in the near
9 future.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES. 435
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their 7 children;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, Robert Levinson disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas in December 2007, Robert Levinson's wife, Christine, traveled to Kish Island to retrace Mr. Levinson's steps and met with officials of the Government of Iran who pledged to help in the investigation;

Whereas for more than 7 years, the United States Government has continually pressed the Government of Iran to provide any information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson and to help ensure his prompt and safe return to his family;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007;

Whereas in November 2010, the Levinson family received a video of Mr. Levinson in captivity, representing the first proof of life since his disappearance and providing some initial indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas in April 2011, the Levinson family received a series of pictures of Mr. Levinson, which provided further indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas Secretary John Kerry stated on August 28, 2013, “The United States respectfully asks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to work cooperatively with us in our efforts to help U.S. citizen Robert Levinson.”;

Whereas on September 28, 2013, during the first direct phone conversation between the leaders of the United States and Iran since 1979, President Barack Obama raised the case of Robert Levinson to Hassan Rouhani and urged him to help locate Mr. Levinson and reunite him with his family;

Whereas November 26, 2013, marked the 2,455th day since Mr. Levinson’s disappearance, making him one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation’s history; and

Whereas the FBI has announced a \$1,000,000 reward for information leading to Mr. Levinson’s safe return: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) recognizes that Robert Levinson is one of
2 the longest held United States civilians in our Na-
3 tion's history;

4 (2) notes renewed pledges by officials of the
5 Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to pro-
6 vide their assistance in the case of Robert Levinson;

7 (3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humani-
8 tarian gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the
9 case of Robert Levinson and to immediately share
10 the results of its investigation into the disappearance
11 of Robert Levinson with the United States Govern-
12 ment;

13 (4) urges the President and the allies of the
14 United States to continue to raise with officials of
15 the Government of Iran the case of Robert Levinson
16 at every opportunity; and

17 (5) expresses compassion to the family of Rob-
18 ert Levinson for their anguish and expresses hope
19 that their ordeal can be brought to a positive resolu-
20 tion in the near future.

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution urging
the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assist-
ance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest
held United States civilians in our Nation's history."



113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 562

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2014

Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity.

Whereas the United States has enjoyed good relations since the Republic of Moldova's independence in 1991;

Whereas since the Republic of Moldova's independence, the United States has provided financial assistance to support the people of Moldova's efforts to build a prosperous European democracy;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Moldova further strengthened their partnership through the launching of a Strategic Dialogue on March 3, 2014;

Whereas the Republic of Moldova is due to sign an Association Agreement containing comprehensive free trade provisions with the European Union in June or July of 2014;

Whereas the United States Government supports the democratic aspirations of the people of the Republic of Moldova and their expressed desire to deepen their association with the European Union;

Whereas the United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and on that basis participates as an observer in the “5+2” negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement that will provide a special status for the separatist region of Transnistria within Moldova;

Whereas the leaders of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova requested to postpone the “5+2” round of talks scheduled to take place in April 2014;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation banned the import of Moldovan wine in 2013 and has threatened to ban Moldovan agricultural products, curtail the supply of energy resources to Moldova, and impose stricter labor migration policies on the people of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a contingent of Russian troops and a stockpile of Russian military equipment and ammunition within the Moldovan region of Transnistria;

Whereas the Government of Russia has been actively issuing Russian passports to the residents of the Transnistria region;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Government of

Moldova have called upon the Government of the Russian Federation to remove its troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas authorities in the Republic of Moldova's Transnistria region have restricted access to the region by OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors, preventing the Mission from providing impartial reporting on the security situation in the region;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed by an overwhelming majority, and the President signed into law, S. 2183, providing for a United States international broadcasting programming surge to counter misinformation from Russian-supported news outlets and ensuring that Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and Moldova have access to independent news and information; and

Whereas Moldova has been a valued and reliable partner in promoting global security by participating in U.N. peacekeeping missions in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, and Georgia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United
3 States to support the sovereignty, independence, and
4 territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and
5 the inviolability of its borders;

6 (2) supports the Strategic Dialogue as a means
7 to strengthen relations between the Republic of
8 Moldova and the United States and enhance the
9 democratic, economic, rule of law, and security re-

1 forms already being implemented by the Republic of
2 Moldova;

3 (3) encourages the President and the Depart-
4 ment of State to enhance United States cooperation
5 with the Government of Moldova and civil society or-
6 ganizations and focus assistance on justice sector re-
7 form, anti-corruption efforts, strengthening demo-
8 cratic institutions, domestic energy development, di-
9 versification of energy supplies and energy efficiency,
10 as well as promoting trade and investment opportu-
11 nities;

12 (4) encourages the President to expedite the
13 implementation of Public Law 113–96, especially for
14 populations in Ukraine and Moldova;

15 (5) affirms the Republic of Moldova’s sovereign
16 right to determine its own partnerships free of exter-
17 nal coercion and pressure, and affirms Moldova’s
18 right to associate with the European Union or any
19 regional organization as well as its right to develop
20 political, trade, social, and cultural and security
21 links with the European Union;

22 (6) calls upon the Government of Russia to ful-
23 fill its commitments made at the OSCE’s Istanbul
24 summit in 1999 and to withdraw its military forces

1 and munitions from within the internationally recog-
2 nized territory of the Republic of Moldova;

3 (7) calls upon the Government of Russia to re-
4 frain from economic threats and pressure against
5 Moldova and to cease any and all actions that sup-
6 port separatist movements on the territory of
7 Moldova;

8 (8) supports constructive engagement and con-
9 fidence-building measures between the Government
10 of Moldova and the authorities in the Transnistria
11 region in order to secure a peaceful resolution to the
12 conflict;

13 (9) finds that the only lasting resolution to the
14 Transnistria issue is through a comprehensive settle-
15 ment that affirms Moldova's sovereignty and terri-
16 torial integrity, while providing a special status for
17 the Transnistrian region within Moldova;

18 (10) urges officials in the Transnistrian region
19 to allow OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors unre-
20 stricted access to the region;

21 (11) urges all parties to refrain from unilateral
22 actions that may undermine efforts to achieve a
23 peaceful resolution, as well as the agreements al-
24 ready reached, and encourages leaders of the

1 Transnistrian region to resume negotiations toward
2 a political settlement; and

3 (12) affirms that lasting stability and security
4 in Europe is a key priority for the United States
5 and that these can only be achieved if the territorial
6 integrity and sovereignty of all European countries
7 is respected.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES. 562
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States has enjoyed good relations with the Republic of Moldova since the Republic of Moldova's independence in 1991;

Whereas since the Republic of Moldova's independence, the United States has provided financial assistance to support the people of Moldova's efforts to build a prosperous European democracy;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Moldova further strengthened their partnership through the launching of a Strategic Dialogue on March 3, 2014;

Whereas the Republic of Moldova is due to sign an Association Agreement containing comprehensive free trade provisions with the European Union on June 27, 2014;

Whereas the United States Government supports the democratic aspirations of the people of the Republic of Moldova and their expressed desire to deepen their association with the European Union;

Whereas in a judgment in 2004, the European Court of Human Rights found that Transnistria was set up with the support of the Russian Federation and considered it "under the effective authority or at least decisive influence of Russia";

Whereas the United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and on that basis participates as an observer in the “5+2” negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement that will provide a special status for the separatist region of Transnistria within Moldova;

Whereas the leaders of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova requested to postpone the “5+2” round of talks scheduled to take place in April 2014;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation banned the import of Moldovan wine in 2013 and has threatened to ban Moldovan agricultural products, curtail the supply of energy resources to Moldova, and impose stricter labor migration policies on the people of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a contingent of Russian troops and a stockpile of Russian military equipment and ammunition within the Moldovan region of Transnistria;

Whereas the Government of Russia has been actively issuing Russian passports to the residents of the Transnistria region;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Government of Moldova have called upon the Government of the Russian Federation to remove its troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas authorities in the Republic of Moldova’s Transnistria region have restricted access to the region by OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors, preventing the Mission from providing impartial reporting on the security situation in the region;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed by an overwhelming majority, and the President signed into law, S. 2183, providing for a United States international broadcasting programming surge to counter misinformation from Russian-supported news outlets and ensuring that Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and Moldova have access to independent news and information; and

Whereas Moldova has been a valued and reliable partner in promoting global security by participating in U.N. peacekeeping missions in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, and Georgia: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- 1 (1) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United
2 States to support the sovereignty, independence, and
3 territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and
4 the inviolability of its borders by other nation-states;
- 5 (2) supports the Strategic Dialogue as a means
6 to strengthen relations between the Republic of
7 Moldova and the United States and enhance the
8 democratic, economic, rule of law, and security re-
9 forms already being implemented by the Republic of
10 Moldova;
- 11 (3) encourages the President and the Depart-
12 ment of State to enhance United States cooperation

1 with the Government of Moldova and civil society or-
2 ganizations and focus assistance on justice sector re-
3 form, anti-corruption efforts, strengthening demo-
4 cratic institutions, domestic energy development, di-
5 versification of energy supplies and energy efficiency,
6 as well as promoting trade and investment opportu-
7 nities;

8 (4) encourages the President to expedite the
9 implementation of Public Law 113-96, especially for
10 populations in Ukraine and Moldova;

11 (5) affirms the Republic of Moldova's sovereign
12 right to determine its own partnerships free of exter-
13 nal coercion and pressure, and affirms Moldova's
14 right to associate with the European Union or any
15 regional organization;

16 (6) calls upon the Government of Russia to ful-
17 fill its commitments made at the OSCE's Istanbul
18 summit in 1999 and to withdraw its military forces
19 and munitions from within the internationally recog-
20 nized territory of the Republic of Moldova;

21 (7) calls upon the Government of Russia to re-
22 frain from economic threats and pressure against
23 Moldova and to cease any and all actions that sup-
24 port separatist movements on the territory of
25 Moldova;

1 (8) supports constructive engagement and con-
2 fidence-building measures between the Government
3 of Moldova and the authorities in the Transnistria
4 region in order to secure a peaceful resolution to the
5 conflict;

6 (9) supports efforts to resolve the Transnistria
7 issue through a comprehensive settlement that af-
8 firms Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity,
9 while providing a special status for the
10 Transnistrian region within Moldova;

11 (10) urges officials in the Transnistrian region
12 to allow OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors unre-
13 stricted access to the region;

14 (11) urges all parties to refrain from unilateral
15 actions that may undermine efforts to achieve a
16 peaceful resolution, as well as the agreements al-
17 ready reached, and encourages leaders of the
18 Transnistrian region to resume negotiations toward
19 a political settlement; and

20 (12) affirms that lasting stability and security
21 in Europe is a key priority for the United States
22 and that these can only be achieved if the territorial
23 integrity and sovereignty of all European countries
24 is respected.



113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 588

Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2014

Mr. PETERSON (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. TIBERI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

Whereas according to UNICEF, over 4,000,000 orphans are estimated to be living in the Democratic Republic of Congo;

Whereas cyclical and violent conflict has plagued the Democratic Republic of Congo since the mid-1990s;

Whereas the United States has made significant financial investments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, pro-

viding an estimated \$274,000,000 bilateral aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo in fiscal year 2013 and an additional \$165,000,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the policy of the Administration toward the Democratic Republic of Congo is “focused on helping the country become a nation that . . . provides for the basic needs of its citizens”;

Whereas the United Nations, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and other international organizations have recognized a child’s right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with family reunification and prevention of abandonment;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the Congolese Ministry of Interior and Security, General Direction of Migration, informed the United States Embassy in Kinshasa that effective September 25, 2013, they had suspended issuance of exit permits to adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents;

Whereas there are United States families with finalized adoptions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the necessary legal paperwork and visas ready to travel home with these children but are currently unable to do so; and

Whereas, on December 19, 2013, the Congolese Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Security, and the General Direction of Migration confirmed to members of the United States Department of State that the current sus-

pension on the issuance of exit permits continues: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) affirms that all children deserve a safe, lov-
3 ing, and permanent family;

4 (2) recognizes the importance of ensuring that
5 international adoptions of all children are conducted
6 in an ethical and transparent manner;

7 (3) expresses concern over the impact on chil-
8 dren and families caused by the current suspension
9 of exit permit issuance within the Democratic Re-
10 public of Congo;

11 (4) respectfully requests that the Congolese
12 Government—

13 (A) resume processing adoption cases and
14 issuing exit permits via the Ministry of Gender
15 and Family's Interministerial Adoption Com-
16 mittee;

17 (B) prioritize the processing of inter-
18 country adoptions which were initiated before
19 the suspension; and

20 (C) expedite the processing of those adop-
21 tions which involve medically fragile children;
22 and

23 (5) encourages continued dialogue and coopera-
24 tion between the United States Department of State

1 and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Min-
2 istry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry
3 adoption process and ensure the welfare of all chil-
4 dren adopted from the Democratic Republic of
5 Congo.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 588
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas according to UNICEF, over 4,000,000 orphans are estimated to be living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United States has made significant financial investments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, providing an estimated \$758,102,000 in development, humanitarian, and security assistance in fiscal year 2013;

Whereas cyclical and violent conflict has plagued the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the mid-1990s;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State, the policy of the Administration toward the Democratic Republic of the Congo is “focused on helping the country become a nation that . . . provides for the basic needs of its citizens”;

Whereas the United Nations has recognized a child’s right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is widely recognized as an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with family reunification and prevention of abandonment;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the Congolese Ministry of Interior and Security, General Direction of Migration, in-

formed the United States Embassy in Kinshasa that effective September 25, 2013, they had suspended issuance of exit permits to adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, affecting hundreds of children;

Whereas there are American families with finalized adoptions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the necessary legal paperwork and visas ready to travel home with these children but are currently unable to do so; and

Whereas on December 19, 2013, the Congolese Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Security, and the General Direction of Migration confirmed to members of the United States Department of State that the current suspension on the issuance of exit permits continues: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- 1 (1) affirms that all children deserve a safe, lov-
- 2 ing, and permanent family;
- 3 (2) recognizes the importance of ensuring that
- 4 international adoptions of all children are conducted
- 5 in an ethical and transparent manner;
- 6 (3) expresses concern over the increasing num-
- 7 ber of new adoption cases that have been opened
- 8 and the impact on children and families of the

1 Democratic Republic of the Congo's suspension of
2 exit permits;

3 (4) respectfully requests that the Congolese
4 Government—

5 (A) resume issuing exit permits for all chil-
6 dren that have been adopted;

7 (B) expedite the processing of those adop-
8 tions which involve medically fragile children;
9 and

10 (C) encourages continued dialogue and co-
11 operation between the United States Depart-
12 ment of State and the Democratic Republic of
13 the Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to im-
14 prove the intercountry adoption process and en-
15 sure the welfare of all children adopted from
16 the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution con-
cerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the
Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for
adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country
with their adoptive parents."



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.RES. 588
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the 2d clause of the preamble, insert “, including peacekeeping activities,” before “in fiscal year 2013”.

Page 3, line 6, add at the end before the semi-colon the following: “, and continue processing adoptions that are already underway”.



Chairman ROYCE. After opening remarks by myself and Ranking Member Engel, I will be glad to recognize any member seeking recognition to speak on the en bloc items.

So, first, let me thank Chairman Smith for authoring his bill, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act. The fight against modern-day slavery has long been a priority for this committee. The annual report and country rankings by the State Department’s trafficking office have turned trafficking into a global policy priority.

But this annual work is a tug-of-war—a tug-of-war between those charged with assessing trafficking conditions and State officials concerned with the potential diplomatic fallout from stating very hard truths.

This bill is intended to help level the playing field by elevating the trafficking office to a bureau, without additional cost or personnel.

Next, we have H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act. It was good to work with Mr. Meadows, Mr. Schneider, and Mr. Engel on this critical legislation.

The threat posed by Hezbollah’s global operations, aided by a vast financial network, has exploded. In 2011, we saw the tip of the iceberg when a massive drug and money-laundering operation for Hezbollah’s benefit in weapons, logistics, and training were uncovered.

To increase the risk in dealing with Hezbollah, the bill would target those financial institutions that knowingly do business with what has been called the “A-Team of terrorists.”

Then, H.R. 4640, the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act, sponsored by Mr. Engel. The ranking member has been

deeply involved in these issues, as has Subcommittee Chairman Salmon.

The bill establishes an independent commission to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations on U.S. efforts to reduce the supply of illicit drugs. This includes an evaluation of the link between the illegal narcotics trade in this hemisphere and terrorist activities around the world.

H.R. 4653 will continue the good work of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The Commission is an independent body of distinguished experts who advocate for the first freedom of religious practice.

This function has become even more critical as the State Department has dropped the ball in prioritizing religious freedom. So the Department has failed to make the required annual designations of the countries of particular concern for religious-freedom violations since 2011. And the Ambassador-at-Large position for international religious freedom has been vacant now for a total of more than 3 years.

So this bill carries forward the important work of this streamlined body and includes some needed management improvements.

House Resolution 435 addresses the case of U.S. citizen Robert Levinson, who disappeared in Iran 7 years ago.

The Iranian regime has continually obstructed U.S. Government efforts to investigate his disappearance, despite promises of assistance. And this individual and his family deserve our every effort to secure his freedom and safe return home.

And I want to commend Mr. Deutch for his relentless efforts in securing Mr. Levinson's release.

House Resolution 562 voices U.S. support for our relations with Moldova and for that country's sovereignty. They have had a long, difficult path.

Democratic reforms have not come easily, but the Moldovan people have persevered, have absolutely persevered, in their expressed desire to join more fully with the West and with Europe. And, recently, the Russian Government has enforced trade embargoes and threatened the cutoff of energy supplies as consequences.

This resolution stands by Moldova, and we urge its support.

Finally, House Resolution 588. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has suspended exit permits for Congolese children adopted by foreign parents, affecting hundreds of families.

And, at this time, I would just like to briefly recognize the families that are here today from across the United States who have been impacted by the actions of the Congolese Government. We are going to ask them to stand for a minute, those who are here, the families, if you would.

And I want them to know we will continue to do everything we can for your families. Thank you very much for attending this hearing today.

And, as you can see, some of them are holding pictures of their adopted children. These children are barred from leaving the country to join with their parents here, even though the courts have declared these parents as their legal guardians. Nine hundred American cases are caught up in this adoption limbo, and that breaks

a lot of hearts here in the United States, and it breaks a lot of hearts of children in Congo.

I witnessed firsthand the power of providing a child with a loving home when my chief of staff, Amy Porter, who is here with us, adopted internationally. And these children must be allowed to make their way to homes that desperately want to care for these children.

Congressional approval of this resolution, of course, will send a strong message to Kinshasa that we need to unite these families.

I now recognize the ranking member for his remarks on the en bloc items.

Mr. Engel?

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for holding this important markup. And, once again, I am grateful that we could work together in bipartisan fashion on all of these measures.

First of all, let me express my strong support for H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act.

Hezbollah has continued to terrorize the globe, reaching into Latin America, Europe, Asia, and across the Middle East. How does Hezbollah fund this violence and terrorism? Kidnappings and ransom, conflict diamonds, narcotrafficking, and other criminal enterprises. Claims that Hezbollah is simply just a political organization or a social services agency are simply naive. And this bill exposes the group for what it is: A vicious terrorist organization with a global footprint.

This legislation goes after financial institutions that knowingly support Hezbollah. It is modeled after the Comprehensive Iranian Sanctions and Divestment Act of 2010. And that measure worked. It was one of the prime causes of the severe economic downturn that brought the Iranians to the negotiating table.

H.R. 4411 also focuses on Hezbollah's efforts to spread hateful propaganda through its media outlet, Al-Manar, which is, in itself, a specially designated terrorist group.

Through sanctions, we hope to cut off Hezbollah's lifeline and prevent future terrorist attacks.

I want to thank Representatives Meadows and Schneider for their thoughtful leadership on this issue and their bipartisan work.

And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for moving this forward, especially at this critical time.

Next, Mr. Chairman, I would like thank you for bringing up H.R. 4640, my Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission legislation. Let me also thank Congressman Salmon, who is the lead Republican cosponsor of this legislation, a great partner of mine, and strongly committed to a strong U.S.-Latin American partnership.

Despite at least \$15.7 billion spent on counternarcotics programs in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and 2012, illicit drug use in our country remains high. In 2012, there were around 24 million illicit drug users in the United States. And while cocaine use at home is declining, heroin use is on the rise. In fact, heroin overdose deaths in the United States increased by an alarming 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

This bill would create an independent commission to take stock of what is working, what isn't, and help guide the future of U.S. drug policy through recommendations submitted to Congress, the

Secretary of State, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. This commission will save our Government money in the long run. Its recommendations will help ensure that we are getting the biggest bang for our buck as we tackle this problem in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A similar bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously in 2009 but stalled in the Senate. This year, I and Mr. Salmon are determined to get this legislation onto the President's desk.

I would also like to express my support for H. Res. 435, which calls attention to the disappearance of Robert Levinson in Iran more than 7 years ago. The United States has repeatedly raised Mr. Levinson's case with the Iranian Government. Now is the time for Iran to make a good-faith effort to bring Robert Levinson home. Thanks to the leadership and tireless work by Representative Deutch, Mr. Levinson's Congressman, this resolution will lend a new sense of urgency to this effort.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend our committee colleague, Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey, as well as Representative Wolf for their leadership on international religious-freedom issues and for their work on H.R. 4653, which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right includes the freedom to manifest his religion or beliefs in teaching, practice, worship, and observance. Nevertheless, every day religious communities around the world are subject to escalating violence, persecution, and discrimination. USCIRF is pushing back against violations and helping to uphold our most cherished values.

I would like to again thank Mr. Smith for introducing H.R. 2283, legislation that would elevate the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to the status of a bureau within the State Department.

Human trafficking, as Mr. Chris Smith has always pointed out, is a modern-day slavery and one of the most offensive violations of a person's freedom and dignity. Around the world, as many as 27 million people are victims of this heinous crime.

Elevating this trafficking office to a bureau will send a message that combating modern-day slavery is a priority for the United States. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Chairman, let me also express my strong support for H. Res. 562, a resolution introduced by Representative Pitts. This measure reaffirms our support for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Moldova, expresses strong support for strengthened U.S.-Moldova relations, and affirms that Moldova has a sovereign right to determine its own partnerships, free of external coercion and pressure. I am delighted that tomorrow Moldova will sign an association agreement with the EU.

The resolution also calls on Russia to remove its forces from the Transnistria region of Moldova and urges all parties to work for a peaceful resolution to the Transnistria issue.

I have met with Moldovan officials. They want to look westward rather than eastward. They are frightened to death of Russia's aggression, and it is very important that the United States stand by them. This resolution does that, and I am very proud of it.

And, finally, Mr. Chairman, we are taking up H. Res. 588, a resolution introduced by Representative Peterson on adoptions from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We have seen all these brave parents stand up before.

The Government of the DRC has stopped issuing exit permits for adopted children, affecting hundreds of children who were set to be taken in by loving families. This is a terribly painful situation that we need to help resolve.

This resolution recognizes the importance of ethical and transparent adoptions, and it seeks to raise awareness about the plight of the families currently stuck in limbo over these suspended permits. It encourages dialogue between the governments of the U.S. and DRC to find a path forward on this issue. And I urge my colleagues to support it.

So, in closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to once again thank you for holding this markup and for working with our side of the aisle in a bipartisan manner.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Engel.

Do any other members seek—Mr. Smith?

Mr. SMITH. Chairman, thank you very much. And thank you for bringing these very important pieces of legislation to the full committee and, hopefully, to the floor very shortly.

H.R. 2283, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act of 2013, is a bipartisan piece of legislation. We have 91 cosponsors, including some 13 who are members of this committee. I want to thank Karen Bass for her co-sponsorship and, again, all the other members of the committee and the subcommittee.

The Human Trafficking Prioritization Act will keep the fight against human trafficking from being downgraded or trivialized in the shuffle of politics of other U.S. interests.

In the 14 years since my legislation, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, was signed into law, legislation that created the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking Persons, commonly known as the TIP office, many countries have said that they have strengthened their own trafficking laws—as a matter of fact, more than 130 of them—because of U.S. leadership, guidance, prioritization, and accountability.

The metamorphosis that has happened throughout the world really can relate squarely to U.S. leadership, carried out so effectively and faithfully by the personnel at the TIP office. There are some 65 people who make up that office. Our Ambassador-at-Large, Luis CdeBaca, is doing an outstanding job. And in every Embassy in the world, when Members travel, there is always one person, at least, who is tasked in the Embassy to work on trafficking issues. We hope our Ambassadors and DCMs will also make it a high priority.

We have found a strategy that works. Now is the time to build on successes, however, for the sake of the 21 million people—Free the Slaves puts that number at 27 million people—who are captives of modern-day slavery. And we can do it without increasing the cost of government.

H.R. 2283 will raise the status of the TIP office to that of a bureau within the State Department bureaucracy without creating

new costs. These changes simply give TIP the latitude it needs, the voice it deserves, and, above all, the line authority within State that it requires. It gives the Ambassador-at-Large who heads it equal stature with the regional and the functional bureaus.

Mark Lagon, who was the Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons from 2007 to 2009, testified here that the State Department does a tremendous job in producing a report which tells it like it is, offering objective rankings. Yet, at times, he pointed out, it pulls punches, typically due to the urging of regional specialists rather than the TIP office specialists dedicated to trafficking. This bill will give the State Department's trafficking team the leverage necessary to allow it to advocate most effectively on behalf of the victims of trafficking.

And we saw a need for this just last week when China undeservedly received an upgrade from Tier 3, an egregious violator of human trafficking, to Tier 2 Watch List, despite their atrocious record on trafficking.

Hence, I am offering another amendment that limits the ability—it is in the en bloc—so that, the 4-year cycle of being on the Watch List—is as long as it can be. There has to be an automatic movement up or down after 4 years. After you have been downgraded to Tier 3 after the 4 years, you get 1 more year, not a recess of 4 more years. And China would game that system, believe me, for another 4 years, and they would stay off being cited, and potentially sanctioned, by the provisions of the law.

Next, I want to mention H.R. 4653, which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, or USCIRF.

In 1998, Congress had the foresight to make the protection and promotion of religious freedom a priority in U.S. foreign policy by creating an Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom, the Office of International Religious Freedom at the Department of State, and, so very importantly, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Importantly, this landmark piece of legislation, authored by Chairman Frank Wolf, IRFA, created a system for naming and taking action against Countries of Particular Concern, or CPCs. History has shown that when the U.S. makes religious freedom a priority and that priority is conveyed to Countries of Particular Concern, we have seen conditions improve, with minimal harm to security or economic cooperation, but, frankly, human rights ought to trump that. And, in this case, it does mean that prisoners are set free, and the record is replete with those examples.

Two and a half years ago, there were some problems with the reauthorization of USCIRF. It got bogged down in the Senate. I don't think that will happen this year. It has to be reauthorized by the end of this fiscal year or it becomes defunct.

Dr. Robert George, who is the chairman of the Commission, testified here just a few weeks ago before my subcommittee. And if any Member travels anywhere, I strongly urge you to read their reports. They are incisive, they are accurate, they have action items, and those action items go to the country that is committing deplorable acts against religious believers and leaders, clerics, bishops, and the like, but it also admonishes the administration and Congress to take effective action.

For example, the President has not designated CPC countries, which is supposed to be done on an annual basis, since 2011. We have asked the President, we have asked the Secretary of State repeatedly, and USCIRF, Dr. George testified to that effect. Name those countries, and, please, apply sanctions where they are necessary.

And, finally, a brief word about the very important legislation authored by Collin Peterson from Minnesota on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the parents, some of whom are here. The government took the ill-advised action of cutting off adoptions. Many of those were already well into the process. Collin Peterson has picked up that baton, and he is pushing very hard. This will help.

And, again, to the families that are here, Congress has your back. We will do everything we can. I have been to DR Congo a number of times, along with Greg Simpkins. They need to listen. A home is awaiting kids who are orphaned. Thank you for your generosity.

And I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Mr. Deutch?

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I want to thank you and Ranking Member Engel for bringing forward these important bills today.

I want to especially thank you both, as well as my colleague on the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, Chairman Emeritus Ros-Lehtinen, for your continued support of House Resolution 435, which calls on the Government of Iran to fulfill its promises of assistance in the case of my missing constituent, Robert Levinson.

Thanks to so many of our colleagues on this committee who have spoken passionately in the past about securing the release of the three American citizens detained in Iran.

Robert Levinson disappeared from Kish Island, Iran, on March 9th, 2007, 2,664 days ago. That is 2,664 days that his wife of 40 years, Christine, and their seven children have gone without their husband, their father, and now their grandfather. He has missed the birth of three grandchildren in the years since his disappearance.

When Bob first disappeared, the U.S. was not sitting across the table from Iran. Today, we meet almost weekly. And I know that our team raises Bob and other American citizens' cases in every meeting, and I am grateful for that. If Iran wants to show the world that they can be trusted, whether they can be taken at their word, then come through on the promise to assist in reuniting Bob Levinson with his family.

Mr. Chairman, last week in our subcommittee markup, I spoke at length about the Levinson family and about Bob's commitment to his country over his 30-year career as an FBI agent. Today, I simply want to remind everyone watching here and around the world that the United States Congress has not and will not forget about Bob Levinson.

I would also like to commend the chairman, Ranking Member Engel, and Congressmen Meadows and Schneider for working to

advance our efforts to crack down on the Iranian-backed terrorist organization, Hezbollah. Thanks for working with me and my colleagues, Mr. DeSantis and Ms. Meng, to include the language that would require reporting on steps other countries are taking to disrupt Hezbollah's illicit networks operating throughout the world.

This legislation will help expose Hezbollah for what it really is: A global criminal and terror enterprise that uses every available avenue to fundraise and finance terror activities around the world. To say that Hezbollah is a resistance organization or a political party with a separate military wing is simply false.

In just the past few years, we have seen Hezbollah plot and launch attacks in Europe, fully back—fully back and assist the murderous Assad regime in Syria, and expand its criminal activity in Latin America. We know that Hezbollah's fingerprints can be found on a broad range of activities in all of those countries and in Africa, a whole range of activities from counterfeiting and credit card fraud to fundraising to weapons trafficking. Hezbollah members and supporters operate front companies, as well as legitimate businesses, used for money laundering and other fraud schemes.

So as we continue to have a debate with some of our friends and allies as to whether it is possible to distinguish Hezbollah's political operations from its terrorist wing—and we know that it is not—this amendment will help us get a clearer picture not only of Hezbollah's reach but what other countries are doing to disrupt Hezbollah's global operations.

In addition, this language will ensure that the administration briefs Congress on these activities, ensuring close consultation as we work together to thwart Hezbollah's worldwide terrorism.

Thanks again to the chairman and the ranking member for working to make these measures bipartisan. It is critical that Congress shows that it is united on these vital security measures, and I appreciate it, Mr. Chairman.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Deutch.

Mr. Chabot?

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief.

I want to particularly associate myself with H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act, introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Meadows. The legislation is certainly timely, in view of the developments in Lebanon and the Middle East region in general and the nefarious role Hezbollah is playing.

Hezbollah's sources of power have always been, in addition to Iranian-supplied weapons, financial transactions and foreign donations that keep the wheels of this terrorist organization running. Sanctioning entities that do business with Hezbollah is a significant step in our efforts to confront this issue.

So I want to commend the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Meadows, for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman ROYCE. We go to Ms. Meng.

Ms. MENG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Engel.

I appreciate the incorporation of the DeSantis-Deutch-Meng amendment to the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act.

This amendment strengthens sanctions against Hezbollah by enabling the disruption of Hezbollah's global logistics networks and its fundraising and money-laundering activities. Furthermore, it requires the Obama administration to shed light on those countries that either overtly or covertly enable any sort of Hezbollah activities within their borders.

This provision is particularly important in the Hezbollah context, because there are far too many countries that outwardly condemn Hezbollah's military and terrorist activities while privately fostering environments where Hezbollah can operate politically and financially. Well, no more, not if you want to do business with the United States.

I thank Mr. DeSantis and Mr. Deutch for their leadership and partnership, the sponsors of the bill for crafting such important legislation, and the committee staff for all their hard work in putting it all together.

I would also like to thank the committee for accepting my amendment to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reauthorization legislation. USCIRF is invaluable, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this reauthorization bill and to support its passage today.

My simple amendment revises the applicable antidiscrimination laws relating to USCIRF to bar discrimination at the Commission on the basis of religion. This is only fitting for a commission that is devoted to religious freedom. It is also appropriate given the sensitivities regarding which violations of religious freedom around the world the Commission chooses to focus on.

My hope is that this amendment will help ensure the diversity, credibility, and strength of the Commission for a long time to come.

I thank Congressmen Wolf and Smith for their leadership on these important issues, as always, and Janice Kaguyutan and Doug Anderson for their assistance with my amendment.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Ms. Meng.

We go to Judge Poe.

Mr. POE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank you and the ranking member for bringing all of this legislation up today. It is a good day in the Foreign Affairs Committee, all of this important legislation.

I want to talk about four of the bills in the time that I have, first the trafficking legislation that Mr. Smith has sponsored; I commend him for his long endurance in making sure that international trafficking is something that we recognize is a problem and the work that he has done over the years.

And now Congress, 2 weeks ago, we passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act out of the House, bipartisan legislation authored by Carolyn Maloney and myself, a unanimous decision on a rollcall vote of all Members of Congress that voted, going after the traffickers, the demand, and, of course, rescuing children.

And that is a worldwide problem. That is a national problem, as well. Unfortunately, my hometown of Houston, Texas, is the hub

for international minor sex trafficking that comes into the United States. And this legislation, along with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, will let the world know where the United States stands on the issue of trafficking: That kids are not for sale—not here, not there, not anywhere.

Hezbollah, a terrorist organization. I commend Mr. Meadows for bringing this legislation up.

My amendment to this legislation encourages the State Department to offer the rewards program to get information about Hezbollah's finances and where that money comes from. It is the old-fashioned, kind of the code of the West, the "wanted" poster. You post up some outlaw's photograph—we just say "wanted" now, not "dead or alive," just "wanted"—information about them, and other outlaws give information to the good guys and they pay to get their buddies arrested.

That has always worked. It has worked in the past with legislation that is already on the books. It has worked in Colombia. It has worked in other parts of the country, or other parts of world, as well. So I thank Mr. Meadows, but, also, I think this amendment will help put some teeth in it and go get some folks brought to justice.

The other point I want to—the legislation is Moldova. I met with Members of the Parliament from Moldova; they came over here. They were nervous. They are worried. They think the Russians are coming and they are next.

And we need to recognize the world the way it is, that Putin sees himself as Czar Nicholas III. He wants the Russian Empire again. He went into Georgia. Mr. Smith was in Georgia right after the Russians were there. I was there about a week after him. We saw those tanks on the border with Russia and Georgia. Russia took one-third of the country, and the Russians are still in Georgia. They waited a few years; they took Crimea. Now they are in eastern Ukraine, and I don't see them stopping.

So, the West, primarily the United States, needs to make sure that the Russians know we are not Chamberlain, we are going to act like Churchill. When it comes to aggression, and let the Moldovans know that the United States sees them as a partner and ally, and Czar Nicholas III needs to stay away from Moldova.

And the last group I want to talk to are these wonderful mothers that are here.

Thank you. God bless you for your tenacity—I can't even say it right—tenacity and going and getting your children. That is something that is just neat. It is great. It is God's work.

I have 11 grandchildren, and my newest one, a 4-month-old, is a special child. They are all special, but she is adopted. And my youngest daughter and her husband adopted a child. And when you get to pick the child, it is just—it is neat.

So thank you for your work in rescuing children in this humanitarian effort, saving one child at a time. And thank you for your perseverance with Congress, hoping we can get in this case the Congo to do what is right. And so thank you for that.

And, Mr. Chairman, I will do something I rarely do; I will yield back the rest of my time

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, sir. Thank you, Judge.

Mr. Schneider?

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank the chairman for the time and for the tremendous bipartisanship you have shown in this committee in general and, in particular, with respect to H.R. 4411, to address one of most critical national security challenges we face.

A special thank you to my good friend, Mark Meadows, who, with me, initiated this bill, along with the chairman and ranking member, for their tireless effort on this important piece of legislation.

I would also like to thank the outstanding effort of the majority and minority staff, along with Ansley Rhyne from Mr. Meadows' staff and Tyler Stapleton from my staff, who have put so much time into perfecting this bill.

The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act is a leap forward in combating the threat of global terrorism financing.

We have known for years that the international terrorist organization Hezbollah has planned, funded, and executed terrorist attacks in the Middle East, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere. Hezbollah continues to use underground networks and illicit materials to fundraise their global instability efforts. They have used U.S. and European banks, along with their subsidiaries, to hide and launder money out of South America and Europe to help finance thousands of Hezbollah operatives around the globe.

One must only look at some of Hezbollah's past acts to understand the true threat they pose to U.S. national security. In 1983, Hezbollah bombed the U.S. barracks in Beirut, killing 241 Marines. In 1992, Hezbollah bombed the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29. In 1994, Hezbollah bombed the AMIA Jewish cultural center in Argentina, killing 85.

In 2006, Hezbollah operatives conducted cross-border raids into Israel, kidnapping IDF soldiers, which led to a 34-day military conflict between Israel and Lebanon. In 2011, reports indicated that Hezbollah was behind the bombing in Istanbul that wounded eight Turkish citizens. In 2012, authorities apprehended a Hezbollah operative planning terrorist activity in Cyprus against civilians and commercial airlines. In 2012, Hezbollah bombed a tourism bus in Burgas, Bulgaria, killing six Israeli tourists and their Bulgarian driver.

These are just a few of the activities of Hezbollah that have targeted U.S. interests and our allies around the world. We can and must do more to stem the global financing of these activities. Today we have the opportunity, and I hope that my colleagues will join in combating this pressing threat to U.S. national security.

The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act provides the administration with important tools to go after financial institutions and satellite providers that provide material support and propaganda tools to Hezbollah. This important effort will result in fewer resources falling into the hands of terrorists who have shown great resilience in attacking Western targets in addition to their destabilizing efforts in the Middle East.

I want to again thank the chairman and ranking member, along with Mark Meadows, for working with us to introduce this important legislation. With more than 300 co-sponsors in the House, I hope that this committee will support its passage. I also want to

express my support for the other measures offered today by members of this committee. It is a real pleasure to work with my colleagues and to share a deep personal interest in solving these complex problems.

And I also want to welcome the mothers and thank you for what you are doing, standing up and continuing to fight so hard.

Thank you to the chair. And I yield back the balance of my time. Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Salmon?

Mr. SALMON. Thanks a lot, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to just make a few comments about H.R. 4640, but before I do, it is hard not to have your heart touched when you see such a wonderful group of mothers here. And I just want to remind you of one of the best sayings I ever heard, and that is, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." And so you are making a difference. We see a lot of terrible things in this world, but, you know, it is good to see great things and it is good to see great people like you stepping forward. So God bless you.

I would like to thank Ranking Member Engel for partnering with me and allowing me to partner with him on H.R. 4640. And I agree with you; this time it is going the distance. It is going to go all the way to the President. And it is so needed. And I thank the chairman for bringing up all the bills today but especially this one.

You know, we have spent billions upon billions of dollars fighting the war on drugs right in this hemisphere, and the work continues. And this bill is going to make sure that our precious taxpayer dollars are being spent in the most effective way that we can possibly do it.

It establishes a commission that is going to evaluate across all the Federal agencies what is working and what isn't. And that is just common sense. It provides this Congress with a report that will allow this committee and our partner committees to implement a legislative strategy to attack this vicious narcotrafficking criminal process and eliminate the scourge of drugs from our streets.

But it is not just about drugs. The narcotrafficking criminal organizations, they support terrorism in our region. And they are actively participating in this current humanitarian crisis that is happening right on our border with the kids from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

In fact, I visited the facility in Nogales just a couple of weeks ago where 1,250 children are sitting in cages. I don't know what else to call them; they are chain-link rooms with razor wire on the top. And every one of those children is being brought to this country by coyotes that are aided and abetted by the narcotraffickers, the cartels. And so it is a terrible scourge on our society.

And I had to ask myself, as I looked at those little children, how many of them didn't make it? How many of them are sold into sexual slavery? How many of them are murdered along the way? How many of them die in the desert of dehydration? We have to solve the problem, but we have to make sure that our drug policies are working, because it is the drug scourge that is funding these animals that are now preying upon these children.

So fighting these criminal organizations whose staple is the drug trade, even though they branch out into human trafficking, is a U.S. national security priority. And this commission is going to

help us provide lessons learned in the field to ensure we are spending our limited resources in the most effective way and putting us on a path to winning this war.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Congressman Engel, the ranking member, for making sure that we are being fiscally responsible, too, and that this bill, once we get the report, it sunsets 60 days after. So it is not one of those things—like Ronald Reagan said, “The closest thing to eternal life is a government program.” That is not the case here.

So thank you very much, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Let’s see. Mr. Perry, were you next? You were seeking recognition.

Mr. PERRY. I will take it, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, on House Resolution 588.

Since September 2013, hundreds and hundreds of Congolese children and their adoptive American families have been affected by the suspension of exit permits in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Just yesterday, I got to hear firsthand the very heartbreaking, heartwarming story of numerous families, including one in the district I represent, that have legally adopted and financially supported their two Congolese children but have been unable to welcome them into their loving homes.

And I found it fascinating—maybe the world doesn’t know—I mean, the Congolese Government is happy to accept the money. And these families have gone through every hoop, and they pay every month, and they don’t know the status of their children. Imagine committing yourself to a child, having that child see you, and wonder when the child is coming home. And the child, a little baby, doesn’t understand and doesn’t know why they can’t come home with their loving parents, but they can’t.

And the parents here in America, they pay the bill, and they wonder what kind of care, what kind of treatment. And they know, because they have lived it and they have heard, in many cases they have lived it themselves, the horrific stories of the children that never do make it while they wait, when they were healthy when they started, because of the conditions that they reside in far away from their loving parents, and never get to come home.

As a father of two beautiful little girls, I can’t begin to imagine the uncertainty and the anguish these families go through. And we owe it, we absolutely owe it, to these parents and the children to request that the DRC Government resume immediately the issuing of exit permits and to encourage and demand—and demand the State Department work sincerely and diligently.

That is the other thing, Mr. Chairman. I heard stories about families that go to our Embassy in the Congo and wait hours and hours and hours. These are Americans meeting other Americans, and wait hours and hours for a 10-minute appointment to hear nothing new. It is unacceptable. We demand that the State Department work on these families’ behalf and those children’s behalf to bring this to a successful resolution and conclusion.

With that, I yield back, Mr. Chair.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go to Mr. Weber.

Mr. WEBER. I am good.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Cotton.

Mr. COTTON. Thank you.

I associate myself with the comments of Judge Poe earlier. It is a good and proud day of this committee.

It has been said by cynics that justice is the interest of the stronger, or, put differently, that the strong do what they will and the weak suffer what they must.

We are blessed to live in a country where that is not the case, where justice is based on the natural rights of every person given to us by our creator. But too often in the world, the strong do, in fact, do what they will, whether it is an outlaw regime like Iran pursuing nuclear weapons and holding American citizens like Robert Levinson in captivity or a terrorist gang like Hezbollah that engages in drug trafficking, money laundering, arts and antiquity looting, and human trafficking to finance its activities around the globe, criminal syndicates that prey on the most vulnerable people among us to gain their own money through human trafficking, or a government that exploits orphaned children at the expense of loving families.

Fortunately, though, the strongest of the strong in the world is the United States. We are also the most noble and the most just. So I am proud to stand with my colleagues on this committee, I am proud to be a part today of the Foreign Affairs Committee to use American power and influence to deliver some small measure of justice to the wicked and to their victims alike.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Meadows.

Mr. MEADOWS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is indeed an honor to serve on this committee. Your leadership and that of Ranking Member Engel is to be applauded.

Before I speak on 4411, you know, the tears that I see from many of the moms touch my heart. The prophet Isaiah, many, many years ago, said that we need to defend the cause of the orphan. So thank you for defending that cause.

I want to speak on 4411 and offer my thanks to the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership, my friend Mr. Schneider for his unrelenting work, for the committee staff, for my staff, for those 313 co-sponsors that are on this bill, truly for the outside groups that have helped perfect this bill, for Mr. Deutch, Ms. Meng, Mr. DeSantis, Mr. Poe, who made this bill better.

But in thanking all of them, it is really not about any of us. It is about the target that Hezbollah has and about the victims that they continue to perpetrate their terrorist activities on each and every day.

When we look at this, it is about the fact that there are, today, 40,000 to 60,000 rockets aimed at Israel by Hezbollah. Today, there are thousands and thousands of Hezbollah fighters in Syria. Today, there is trafficking of narcotics in Latin America, in Africa, and throughout the world because of Hezbollah.

This terrorist organization does not relent. But we have a unique opportunity today, that because of global sanctions in other areas, we can put our foot on the neck of Hezbollah and finish them off by taking the financial resources they have and stopping it.

I am pleased to be a sponsor of this bill.

But, more importantly than that, there are many others who say, well, what about Hezbollah, you know, it may affect Israel and it may affect Latin America, but it doesn't really affect me. And that is where they are wrong, because Hezbollah's reach is global. It is something that must be stopped.

And I want to conclude with this, Mr. Chairman, by reading a quote from the U.S. attorney of the Western District of North Carolina, my district that I represent, because we, too, have dealt with Hezbollah. And the quote is,

“Mohamad Hammoud was a student and a member of Hezbollah as a youth in his home country, and he came to the United States on a Hezbollah-driven mission. His loyalty accomplished his mission by creating a criminal enterprise which accumulated millions of dollars in profits, purchased businesses in the U.S., preached radical Muslim fundamentalism, and truly led a clandestine terrorist cell in Charlotte, North Carolina, raised funds for the cause, and saw that the funds were delivered to Hezbollah leadership in Lebanon.

“His guilty verdicts rendered by the jury were upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. But during his time of imprisonment, while he was awaiting trial, he ordered the murder of the then-prosecuting-attorney and the bombing of Charlotte's Federal courthouse. He continues to this day to pose no less a threat to our country and our citizens.”

If this is not enough for us to act today, if not for Israel, if not for Latin America, if not for Africa, then for the United States. And I urge the support and I thank the support of all my colleagues on this particular bill.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. Well, we thank you, Mr. Meadows, for your authorship of the Hezbollah Financing Prevention Act and your leadership on this.

We thank all of the members. I want to just mention also the contributions of our ranking members, the ranking member of this committee, Mr. Engel, as well as all of those who offered up amendments and legislation that we have passed out today.

Hearing no further request for recognition, the question occurs on adopting the en bloc items.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the measure and amendments under consideration en bloc are agreed to.

Without objection, each of the seven measures as amended is ordered favorably reported as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute. Staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes.

And that concludes our business today. The committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:53 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Edward R. Royce (R-CA), Chairman

June 26 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Thursday, June 26, 2014

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MARKUP OF: H.R. 2283, To prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the Federal Government, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4347, To require the Secretary of State to provide an annual report to Congress regarding United States Government efforts to survey and secure the return, protection, and restoration of stolen, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian properties in the Republic of Turkey and in those areas currently occupied by the Turkish military in northern Cyprus;

H.R. 4411, To prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4640, To establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission;

H.R. 4653, To reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes;

H. Res. 435, Calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history;

H. Res. 562, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity; and

H. Res. 588, Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

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X	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL
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X	Steve Chabot, OH
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X	Michael T. McCaul, TX
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X	Doug Collins, GA
X	Mark Meadows, NC
X	Ted S. Yoho, FL
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X	Lois Frankel, FL
X	Tulsi Gabbard, HI
X	Joaquin Castro, TX

06/26/14 Foreign Affairs Committee Markup Summary

The Chair called up the following measures for consideration by the Committee:

1. H.R. 4347 (Royce), "Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act." By unanimous consent, Royce 117, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4347 was considered base text for purposes of markup.
 - a. Connolly 124, an amendment in the nature of a substitute, was not agreed to by voice vote.
 - b. The following amendments were considered *en bloc* and agreed to by voice vote:
 - i. Grayson 284
 - ii. Holding 851

H.R. 4347, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House by unanimous consent.
2. By unanimous consent the following items were considered *en bloc*:
 - a. H.R. 2283 (Smith), "To prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the Federal Government, and for other purposes."
 - i. Smith 58, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2283
 1. Smith 60, amending Smith 58
 - b. H.R. 4411 (Meadows), "To prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes."
 - i. Royce 120, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4411
 1. Poe/Sherman 92, amending Royce 120
 2. DeSantis/Deutch/Meng 51, amending Royce 120
 - c. H.R. 4640 (Engel), "To establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission."
 - i. Engel 60, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4640
 1. Castro 36, amending Engel 60
 - d. H.R. 4653 (Wolf), "To reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes."
 - i. Smith 55, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4653
 1. Meng 47, amending Smith 55
 - e. H. Res. 435 (Deutch), "Calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history."
 - i. Ros-Lehtinen 49, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 435
 - f. H. Res. 562 (Pitts), "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity."
 - i. Royce 123, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 562
 - g. H. Res. 588 (Peterson), "Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents."
 - i. Smith 57, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 588
 1. Royce 122, amending Smith 57

The items *en bloc* were agreed to by voice vote, and the measures, as amended, were ordered favorably reported to the House by unanimous consent.

The Committee adjourned.

Statement for the Record

*Submitted by the Honorable Edward R. Royce
On Behalf of the Honorable Gus. M. Bilirakis*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for allowing me to submit a statement for the record during the markup of H.R. 4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act, which incorporates language from my previously proposed resolution, H.Res. 188 concerning the reopening of the Halki Seminary. I greatly appreciate this common sense consolidation and genuinely miss engaging in the work of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The Committee conducts very important work, which serves as a basis for critical foreign policy initiatives. I truly appreciate the bipartisan fashion in which you and Ranking Member Engel have worked to make this bill a reality. H.R. 4347 now calls upon the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay. This condemnation and call to action is significant to all Eastern Orthodox Christians because of its importance to making sure the very essence of the church survives.

Founded in 1844, the Theological School of Halki located outside Istanbul, Turkey served as the principal seminary for the Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971. The seminary has trained 19 patriarchs including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, as well as countless priests and bishops. The Ecumenical Patriarch, as the leader of nearly 300 million Orthodox Christians, has a record of reaching out and working for peace and reconciliation among all faiths and has fostered dialogue among Christians, Jews and Muslims. The aging population of Orthodox leadership, the dwindling numbers of the Orthodox clergy in Istanbul, and Turkish law which requires the Ecumenical Patriarch to be a Turkish citizen, almost assures the end of the succession process for our spiritual leader.

Reopening the Theological School of Halki is of paramount importance to Orthodox Christians. More than 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world and millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States are certain to find hope in this Committee's approval of H.R. 4347, knowing that the 2,000-year-old Sacred See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be able to teach future religious leaders for generations. Back in the mid-18th century, the seminary at Halki was a living testament of religious coexistence between Muslims and Christians in the heart of the Ottoman Empire. Inasmuch as Istanbul sits at the crossroads, both geographically and culturally, between East and West, reopening the school would be a huge gesture to facilitating relations between Christians and Muslims.

Mr. Chairman, while Orthodox Christians and friends of religious freedom have appreciated encouraging messages over the past decade from the government of Turkey related to the impending opening of the seminary, the deal has yet to be finalized. As with the intent of my original resolution, the language in this bill simply encourages Turkey to take that last affirmative step. Specifically referencing the seminary at Halki in this legislation reinforces the responsibility and accountability at the core of the Turkish Christian Churches Accountability Act, calling direct attention to the grave consequences of the property confiscations that have occurred throughout the past century.

By supporting this legislation, you are aiding the will of a far-reaching group of passionate constituents, many of whom turn to religion and religious guidance routinely in their day-to-day life. Accountability is intertwined with our domestic politics here in the United States, and it is time Turkey is held to the same standards. More importantly, your support will be a leading voice in urging Turkey to allow the doors of the Halki seminary to open without condition.

Thank you again for allowing me to offer this statement. I look forward to the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act's passage and appreciate the Committee's indulgence.



Insert for the Record

Submitted by the Honorable Eliot L. Engel

The Economist

Letters

**On Turkey, Michael Oakeshott, Mexico, Cuba,
Europe's elections**

Jun 14th 2014 | [From the print edition](#)

Letters are welcome via e-mail to letters@economist.com

Relations with Turkey



SIR – You were right to highlight concerns among Turkey's friends in the West about its government's use of propaganda ("[Disillusioned and divided](#)", May 24th). Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister, has demonised and scapegoated Jews, Israel and foreigners, which has isolated Turkey diplomatically and caused American lawmakers to question the US-Turkey relationship. These feelings are compounded by what is seen as an erosion of Turkish democracy by the Erdogan government, increased polarisation and rampant government-fuelled corruption.

As a democracy, Turkey can bridge Eastern and Western values, culture and trade. Its importance as a NATO ally cannot be understated. But to be a full partner on the global stage and to fortify trust with its partners in the West, Turkey must scrap its troubling propaganda machine. Instead, it must bring the population together and address challenges surrounding the rule of law, accountability and transparency to its citizens.

Eliot Engel
William Keating
Foreign Affairs Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC



Statement for the Record

Submitted by the Honorable Gerald E. Connolly

- **H.R. 4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act (Royce/Engel)**

Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, I believe that the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, under your leadership, has served as an example to this Congress on how we can carry out our responsibilities as legislators in a bipartisan and effective fashion. I appreciate the markup process that you have embraced to shepherd bills through the Committee. It is often collaborative, and the Committee consistently acts in concert in the best interest of the foreign policy of the United States.

However, I cannot support H.R. 4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act, as it is written. It simply does not reflect the relationship we have cultivated with Turkey, a close and trusted NATO ally.

I could have moved forward in support of this legislation if it sent a more constructive message. There are issues with religious properties in Turkey that merit attention, but this legislation does not sufficiently recognize the progress Turkey has made. For example, I would have liked to see an accurate account of all properties Turkey has returned to religious minorities. There are strong feelings on both sides of this issue, and the Committee does not need to enflame tensions with divisive legislation that is overly critical of a longtime ally. Additionally, parts of the legislation are tone-deaf to renewed reunification negotiations between Cyprus and Turkey. Addressing these matters and various other items would have secured my support of H.R. 4347.

I share a desire to convey the same principles related to the ownership, use, and preservation of religious properties enshrined in H. Res. 306, which the Committee marked up and then passed on the suspension calendar during the 112th Congress. However, I respectfully submit that H.R. 4347 as drafted does not reflect our collaboration on the previous resolution. I am especially concerned about the message we send to the international community by bringing this legislation forward, singling out Turkey in this manner ahead of the 16 countries of particular concern identified in the 2014 report of the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom.

Passing this legislation will lead to a rupture in our relationship with Turkey at a time when the preservation of our strategic alliance should be a top priority. Turkey has played a vital and unheralded role responding to a humanitarian crisis in the region by accommodating over 1 million refugees fleeing the violence in Syria. As Iraq descends into further conflict, it is not in the best interest of regional stability to isolate Turkey, a Muslim-majority democracy, which has been a reliable and valuable partner on regional security matters.

I am afraid H.R. 4347 does not rise to the high standard we have established on this Committee with respect to thoughtful legislation that promotes careful the stewardship of U.S. foreign policy.

It is for this reason and the others that I have enumerated here that I am offering an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4347. My amendment conveys a positive message to our ally on a matter that deserves attention from our foreign policy apparatus. This amendment reiterates the goals set for Turkey in H. Res. 306 and directs the Secretary of State to encourage continued efforts by Turkey to end all forms of religious discrimination. A vote in favor of my amendment is a vote in favor of both the promotion of religious freedom and a strengthened alliance with Turkey. This is the kind of win-win legislation that this Committee ought to support.

- **H.R. 2283, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act (Smith- NJ), to prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the Federal Government, and for other purposes**

H.R. 2283, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, continues this Committee's extensive work on the issue of human trafficking and modern day slavery. This legislation will allow us to examine the structure of our foreign policy apparatus by studying the potential benefits of creating a Bureau to Combat Trafficking Persons. We can ensure that this issue is receiving the attention it deserves.

The State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) referenced in the legislation is an essential document for policymakers. On Tuesday, June 24, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on the threat to democracy in Thailand. The 2014 TIP Report, released earlier this month, provided a detailed analysis on why Thailand was downgraded to a Tier 3 country, a designation that certifies that the country is not meeting the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and is not taking significant efforts to do so. Information such as this provides valuable depth as we evaluate the true human cost of faltering democracies.

- **H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014, to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes**

The Hezbollah Financing Prevention Act of 2014 is a sincere effort to apply comprehensive pressure and exposure to the sources of financing Hezbollah uses to fund its illicit activities. It will lay bare the cynical dealings of Hezbollah and the nexus of criminal activity and international terrorism.

- **H.R. 4640, the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act, to establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission (Engel)**

The United States has spent over \$15 billion on counternarcotics programs in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1980. However, 86 percent of cocaine trafficked to the U.S. first transits through Mexico and Central America with devastating effects on these trafficking countries. Honduras now has the highest homicide rate in the world. The fallout from this violence is being discussed in Congress as we determine how to best address the thousands of unaccompanied migrant children making their way to the U.S. from Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador.

This legislation, which passed unanimously in the House in 2009, will provide Congress, the State Department and Office of National Drug Control Policy with an analysis of the efficacy of our counternarcotics programs in the Western Hemisphere. The Commission's findings will inform our efforts to address the issues of drug production, trafficking and violence through our foreign policy and hopefully further explore the connection between the drug trade and international terrorism.

- **H.R. 4653 U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act (Wolf)**

Since the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was established by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, it has evolved into an organization that acts in the best interests of people of all faiths. The Commission's Annual Report identifies religious freedom violations and recommends policies to end the abuses.

The 2014 USCIRF Report identified 16 Tier 1, Countries of Particular Concern (CPC), which by statute are any countries whose governments engage in or tolerate particularly severe violations of religious freedom that are systematic, ongoing and egregious. The 16 countries identified by the 2014 Report are Burma, China, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. It is my hope that this Committee and the Administration use this CPC list to prioritize our advocacy efforts on behalf of religious freedom. I want to highlight for the record a few of the Report's findings with regards to CPC's to convey the severity of religious oppression in CPC's.

"The government of Iran continues to engage in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, including prolonged detention, torture, and executions based primarily or entirely upon the religion of the accused."

"Extremist groups and terrorist organizations [in Syria], including al-Qaeda and ISIL, also are perpetrating egregious religious freedom violations. They espouse violence and the creation of an Islamic state with no space for religious diversity, and have carried out religiously-motivated attacks and massacres against Alawite, Shi'a, and Christian civilians. NGOs report that several different anti-regime opposition groups have established Shari'ah courts in areas they control."

The Secretary of State has the power to accept the list of CPC's recommended by USCIRF and take actions to encourage religious freedom in those countries. This Committee also has the ability to prioritize our work on religious freedom in accordance with this list. I would hope that we use our actions on this Committee to seek out the most egregious offenders as opposed to singling out certain nations that are making improvements, and shape our foreign policy in a way that promotes religious freedom for people of all faiths.

- **H. Res. 435, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history.**

With respect to H Res. 435, I think it is appropriate for the committee to express its support for engaging Iran on the offer from President Rouhani and others in his government to assist with the search for Robert Levinson. Secretary of State Kerry continues to raise this in his various discussions with the Iranian regime, and, of course, President Obama raised Mr. Levinson's case in his historic call with President Rouhani last fall -- the first direct talks between American and Iranian leaders since 1979. If Iran truly desires to cast aside its self-inflicted isolation and rejoin the international community, working with the U.S. on this case, as well as the human right conditions outlined in the other resolution on today's agenda, would be a welcome start. It has been more than seven years since Mr. Levinson was last seen, and he is the longest held American hostage in our nation's history. My sympathies go out to Mr. Levinson's family and I hope passage of this resolution will offer some comfort in knowing we continue to stand with you in this search and demanding his safe return home.

- **H. Res. 562, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity**

As in the cases of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, Russia has claimed a national prerogative to interject itself into the domestic affairs of former Soviet Republics under the guise of minority rights.

This modus operandi was established early in the post-Cold War era. In 1992, it supported the armed resistance of separatists in the Transnistria region of Moldova and the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of Georgia. It has renewed pressure on Moldova in the wake of Moldova's discussions with the European Union about an "Association Agreement."

For countries seeking to shed authoritarian institutions, Western economic prosperity and democratic freedoms can be like a moth to flame. Cold War era geopolitics dictated that the endgame for the USSR was to extinguish that flame. In the post-Cold War era, Russia has its sights set on the moth.

This legislation offers support to our friend and partner by reinforcing Moldova's territorial integrity and sovereignty and right to act independent of outside coercion. This is an important message to send to our friends and allies among the former Soviet Republics as they encounter new challenges associated with Russian aggression in the region.

- **H. Res. 588, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents**

It is my hope that H. Res. 588 offers some closure to the over 300 American families seeking to return to the United States from the Democratic Republic of Congo with their adopted children. International adoptions have decreased by over 60% in the last eight years. However, the need for safe and loving homes for children living abroad remains. When it is carefully administered, international adoption helps meet this need.