

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5375
OFFERED BY MR. MEEKS 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 “Strengthening the
3 Quad Act”.

4 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) as a Pacific power, the United States should
7 continue to strengthen joint cooperation between the
8 United States, Australia, India, and Japan (com-
9 monly referred to as the “Quadrilateral Dialogue” or
10 “Quad” and referred to as such in this Act) to en-
11 hance and implement a shared vision to meet re-
12 gional challenges and to promote a free, open, inclu-
13 sive, resilient, and healthy Indo-Pacific, that is char-
14 acterized by respect for democratic norms, rule of
15 law, and market-driven economic growth, and is free
16 from undue influence and coercion;

17 (2) the United States should expand dialogue
18 and cooperation through the Quad with a range of

1 partners to support peace and prosperity, the rule of
2 law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the peace-
3 ful resolution of disputes, and democratic resilience
4 in the Indo-Pacific;

5 (3) the pledge from the first-ever Quad leaders
6 meeting on March 12, 2021, to address shared chal-
7 lenges, including in public health, cyberspace, critical
8 technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure
9 investment, and humanitarian assistance and dis-
10 aster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid the
11 foundation for critical cooperation among Quad
12 countries;

13 (4) the Quad countries, working through insti-
14 tutions, including the United States International
15 Development Finance Corporation, the Japan Inter-
16 national Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Bank
17 for International Cooperation, and through partner-
18 ships with multilateral development banks such as
19 the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank,
20 should finance development and infrastructure
21 projects in the Indo-Pacific region that are competi-
22 tive, transparent, and sustainable;

23 (5) President Biden's decision to elevate the
24 Quad to the leaders level was critical to bolstering
25 cooperation, and all four countries should work to

1 ensure that the Quad Leaders' Summit continues to
2 take place regularly;

3 (6) the ambitious framework for ongoing co-
4 operation laid out by the four leaders at the fifth
5 convening of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiro-
6 shima on May 20, 2023, should continue; and

7 (7) the formation of a Quad Intra-Parliamen-
8 tary Working Group will—

9 (A) sustain and deepen engagement be-
10 tween senior officials of the Quad countries on
11 a full spectrum of issues; and

12 (B) be modeled on the successful and long-
13 standing bilateral intra-parliamentary groups
14 between the United States and Mexico, Canada,
15 and the United Kingdom, as well as other for-
16 mal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

17 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

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

23 (b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The strategy re-
24 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

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

6 (2) A summary of—

7 (A) current and past Quad initiatives
8 across the whole of the United States Govern-
9 ment, including to promote broad based and in-
10 clusive economic growth and investment, and to
11 advance technology cooperation, energy innova-
12 tion, climate mitigation and adaptation, phys-
13 ical and digital infrastructure development, edu-
14 cation, disaster management, resilient supply
15 chains including in critical minerals, and global
16 health security;

17 (B) proposals agreed to by all Quad coun-
18 tries since January 2021 to deepen existing se-
19 curity cooperation, intelligence sharing, eco-
20 nomic partnerships, and multilateral coordina-
21 tion; and

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

1 (3) A description of the diplomatic and bureau-
2 cratic barriers and obstacles to implementing and
3 expanding existing streams of Quad cooperation.

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

7 (A) any new authorities needed to
8 strengthen United States leadership in and con-
9 tribution to existing and proposed Quad initia-
10 tives and programs; and

11 (B) additional resources needed to scale up
12 and expand successful Quad initiatives and pro-
13 grams.

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

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

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

22 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUAD INTRA-PARLIAMENTARY**
23 **WORKING GROUP.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

1 State shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Gov-
2 ernments of Japan, Australia, and India (collectively, with
3 the United States, known as the “Quad”) with the goal
4 of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Intra-
5 Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer coopera-
6 tion on shared interests and values.

7 (b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

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

15 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

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

22 (i) half shall be appointed by the
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives,
24 based on recommendations from the minor-
25 ity leader, from among Members of the

1 House, not fewer than four of whom shall
2 be members of the Committee on Foreign
3 Affairs; and

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

13 (3) MEETINGS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
15 Group shall seek to meet not less frequently
16 than annually with representatives and appro-
17 priate staff of the legislatures of Japan, Aus-
18 tralia, and India, and any other country invited
19 by mutual agreement of the Quad countries.

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

22 (i) in the United States;

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

25 (iii) virtually.

1 (4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

2 (A) HOUSE DELEGATION.—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives shall designate
4 the chairperson or vice chairperson of the dele-
5 gation of the United States Group from the
6 House from among members of the Committee
7 on Foreign Affairs.

8 (B) SENATE DELEGATION.—The President
9 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the
10 chairperson or vice chairperson of the delega-
11 tion of the United States Group from the Sen-
12 ate from among members of the Committee on
13 Foreign Relations.

14 (5) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States
15 Group may accept gifts or donations of services or
16 property, subject to the review and approval, as ap-
17 propriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House
18 of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of
19 the Senate.

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

1 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States
2 Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
3 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
4 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report
5 for each fiscal year for which an appropriation is
6 made for the United States Group, including a de-
7 scription of its expenditures under such appropria-
8 tion.

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

