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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ENGEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, 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 “Caesar Syria Civilian
5 Protection Act of 2019”.

1 **TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS**
2 **IN CONNECTION WITH THE**
3 **NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH**
4 **RESPECT TO SYRIA**

5 **SEC. 101. MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO CENTRAL BANK OF**
6 **SYRIA.**

7 (a) DETERMINATION REGARDING CENTRAL BANK OF
8 SYRIA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the en-
9 actment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
10 determine, under section 5318A of title 31, United States
11 Code, whether reasonable grounds exist for concluding
12 that the Central Bank of Syria is a financial institution
13 of primary money laundering concern.

14 (b) ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE AND REPORTING
15 REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of the Treasury deter-
16 mines under subsection (a) that reasonable grounds exist
17 for concluding that the Central Bank of Syria is a finan-
18 cial institution of primary money laundering concern, the
19 Secretary, in consultation with the Federal functional reg-
20 ulators (as defined in section 509 of the Gramm-Leach-
21 Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6809)), shall impose one or more
22 of the special measures described in section 5318A(b) of
23 title 31, United States Code, with respect to the Central
24 Bank of Syria.

25 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
2 making a determination under subsection (a) as to
3 whether or not the Central Bank of Syria is a finan-
4 cial institution of primary money laundering con-
5 cern, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to
6 the appropriate congressional committees a report
7 that includes the reasons for the determination.

8 (2) FORM.—A report required by paragraph (1)
9 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
10 clude a classified annex.

11 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
12 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
13 propriate congressional committees” means—

14 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
15 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-
16 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives; and

18 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
19 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
20 Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Appro-
21 priations of the Senate.

22 **SEC. 102. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PER-**
23 **SONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANS-**
24 **ACTIONS.**

25 (a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that
2 is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the President shall impose the sanctions de-
4 scribed in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign
5 person if the President determines that the foreign
6 person, on or after such date of enactment, know-
7 ingly engages in an activity described in paragraph
8 (2).

9 (2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign person
10 engages in an activity described in this paragraph if
11 the foreign person—

12 (A) knowingly provides significant finan-
13 cial, material, or technological support to, or
14 knowingly engages in a significant transaction
15 with—

16 (i) the Government of Syria (including
17 any entity owned or controlled by the Gov-
18 ernment of Syria) or a senior political fig-
19 ure of the Government of Syria;

20 (ii) a foreign person that is a military
21 contractor, mercenary, or a paramilitary
22 force knowingly operating in a military ca-
23 pacity inside Syria for or on behalf of the
24 Government of Syria, the Government of

1 the Russian Federation, or the Govern-
2 ment of Iran; or

3 (iii) a foreign person subject to sanc-
4 tions pursuant to the International Emer-
5 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
6 1701 et seq.) with respect to Syria or any
7 other provision of law that imposes sanc-
8 tions with respect to Syria;

9 (B) knowingly sells or provides significant
10 goods, services, technology, information, or
11 other support that significantly facilitates the
12 maintenance or expansion of the Government of
13 Syria's domestic production of natural gas, pe-
14 troleum, or petroleum products;

15 (C) knowingly sells or provides aircraft or
16 spare aircraft parts that are used for military
17 purposes in Syria for or on behalf of the Gov-
18 ernment of Syria to any foreign person oper-
19 ating in an area directly or indirectly controlled
20 by the Government of Syria or foreign forces
21 associated with the Government of Syria;

22 (D) knowingly provides significant goods
23 or services associated with the operation of air-
24 craft that are used for military purposes in
25 Syria for or on behalf of the Government of

1 Syria to any foreign person operating in an
2 area described in subparagraph (C); or

3 (E) knowingly, directly or indirectly, pro-
4 vides significant construction or engineering
5 services to the Government of Syria.

6 (3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
7 Congress that, in implementing this section, the
8 President should consider financial support under
9 paragraph (2)(A) to include the provision of loans,
10 credits, or export credits.

11 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions to be imposed
13 with respect to a foreign person subject to sub-
14 section (a) are the following:

15 (A) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The Presi-
16 dent shall exercise all of the powers granted to
17 the President under the International Emer-
18 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et
19 seq.) to the extent necessary to block and pro-
20 hibit all transactions in property and interests
21 in property of the foreign person if such prop-
22 erty and interests in property are in the United
23 States, come within the United States, or are or
24 come within the possession or control of a
25 United States person.

1 (B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, AD-
2 MISSION, OR PAROLE.—

3 (i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

4 An alien who the Secretary of State or the
5 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
6 ignee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or
7 has reason to believe, has knowingly en-
8 gaged in any activity described in sub-
9 section (a)(2) is—

10 (I) inadmissible to the United
11 States;

12 (II) ineligible to receive a visa or
13 other documentation to enter the
14 United States; and

15 (III) otherwise ineligible to be
16 admitted or paroled into the United
17 States or to receive any other benefit
18 under the Immigration and Nation-
19 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

20 (ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

21 (I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing
22 consular officer, the Secretary of
23 State, or the Secretary of Homeland
24 Security (or a designee of one of such
25 Secretaries) shall, in accordance with

1 section 221(i) of the Immigration and
2 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)),
3 revoke any visa or other entry docu-
4 mentation issued to an alien described
5 in clause (i) regardless of when the
6 visa or other entry documentation is
7 issued.

8 (II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—
9 A revocation under subclause (I)—

10 (aa) shall take effect imme-
11 diately; and

12 (bb) shall automatically can-
13 cel any other valid visa or entry
14 documentation that is in the
15 alien's possession.

16 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
17 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
18 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
19 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
20 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
21 violation of regulations promulgated under section
22 303(b) to carry out paragraph (1)(A) to the same
23 extent that such penalties apply to a person that
24 commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a)
25 of that Act.

1 (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-
2 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions
3 under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply with respect
4 to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the
5 United States is necessary to permit the United
6 States to comply with the Agreement regarding the
7 Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
8 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force No-
9 vember 21, 1947, between the United Nations and
10 the United States, or other applicable international
11 obligations.

12 **TITLE II—ASSISTANCE FOR THE**
13 **PEOPLE OF SYRIA**

14 **SEC. 201. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SERVICES IN SUP-**
15 **PORT OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-**
16 **TIONS' ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
18 (b), section 542.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regula-
19 tions (relating to certain services in support of nongovern-
20 mental organizations' activities authorized), as in effect on
21 the day before the date of the enactment of this Act,
22 shall—

23 (1) remain in effect on and after such date of
24 enactment; and

1 (2) in the case of a nongovernmental organiza-
2 tion that is authorized to export or reexport services
3 to Syria under such section on the day before such
4 date of enactment, apply to such organization on
5 and after such date of enactment to the same extent
6 and in the same manner as such section applied to
7 such organization on the day before such date of en-
8 actment.

9 (b) EXCEPTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 542.516 of title 31,
11 Code of Federal Regulations, as codified under sub-
12 section (a), shall not apply with respect to a foreign
13 person that has been designated as a foreign ter-
14 rorist organization under section 219 of the Immi-
15 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), or oth-
16 erwise designated as a terrorist organization, by the
17 Secretary of State, in consultation with or upon the
18 request of the Attorney General or the Secretary of
19 Homeland Security.

20 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall
21 apply with respect to a foreign person on and after
22 the date on which the designation of that person as
23 a terrorist organization is published in the Federal
24 Register.

1 **SEC. 202. BRIEFING ON STRATEGY TO FACILITATE HUMANI-**
2 **TARIAN ASSISTANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall brief
5 the appropriate congressional committees on the strategy
6 of the President to help facilitate the ability of humani-
7 tarian organizations to access financial services to help fa-
8 cilitate the safe and timely delivery of assistance to com-
9 munities in need in Syria.

10 (b) CONSIDERATION OF DATA FROM OTHER COUN-
11 TRIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In
12 preparing the strategy required by subsection (a), the
13 President shall consider credible data already obtained by
14 other countries and nongovernmental organizations, in-
15 cluding organizations operating in Syria.

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

19 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
20 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-
21 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
22 atives; and

23 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
24 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
25 fairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the
26 Senate.

1 **TITLE III—GENERAL**
2 **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 301. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President may suspend in
5 whole or in part the imposition of sanctions otherwise re-
6 quired under this Act for periods not to exceed 180 days
7 if the President determines that the following criteria have
8 been met in Syria:

9 (1) The air space over Syria is no longer being
10 utilized by the Government of Syria or the Govern-
11 ment of the Russian Federation to target civilian
12 populations through the use of incendiary devices,
13 including barrel bombs, chemical weapons, and con-
14 ventional arms, including air-delivered missiles and
15 explosives.

16 (2) Areas besieged by the Government of Syria,
17 the Government of the Russian Federation, the Gov-
18 ernment of Iran, or a foreign person described in
19 section 102(a)(2)(A)(ii) are no longer cut off from
20 international aid and have regular access to humani-
21 tarian assistance, freedom of travel, and medical
22 care.

23 (3) The Government of Syria is releasing all po-
24 litical prisoners forcibly held within the prison sys-
25 tem of the regime of Bashar al-Assad and the Gov-

1 ernment of Syria is allowing full access to the same
2 facilities for investigations by appropriate inter-
3 national human rights organizations.

4 (4) The forces of the Government of Syria, the
5 Government of the Russian Federation, the Govern-
6 ment of Iran, and any foreign person described in
7 section 102(a)(2)(A)(ii) are no longer engaged in de-
8 liberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, resi-
9 dential areas, and community gathering places, in-
10 cluding markets, in violation of international norms.

11 (5) The Government of Syria is—

12 (A) taking steps to verifiably fulfill its
13 commitments under the Convention on the Pro-
14 hibition of the Development, Production, Stock-
15 piling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on
16 their Destruction, done at Geneva September 3,
17 1992, and entered into force April 29, 1997
18 (commonly known as the “Chemical Weapons
19 Convention”), and the Treaty on the Non-Pro-
20 liferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Wash-
21 ington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and
22 entered into force March 5, 1970 (21 UST
23 483); and

24 (B) making tangible progress toward be-
25 coming a signatory to the Convention on the

1 Prohibition of the Development, Production and
2 Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and
3 Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, done
4 at Washington, London, and Moscow April 10,
5 1972, and entered into force March 26, 1975
6 (26 UST 583).

7 (6) The Government of Syria is permitting the
8 safe, voluntary, and dignified return of Syrians dis-
9 placed by the conflict.

10 (7) The Government of Syria is taking
11 verifiable steps to establish meaningful account-
12 ability for perpetrators of war crimes in Syria and
13 justice for victims of war crimes committed by the
14 Assad regime, including by participation in a cred-
15 ible and independent truth and reconciliation proc-
16 ess.

17 (b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days
18 after the President makes a determination described in
19 subsection (a), the President shall provide a briefing to
20 the appropriate congressional committees on the deter-
21 mination and the suspension of sanctions pursuant to the
22 determination.

23 (c) REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions
24 suspended under subsection (a) shall be reimposed if the

1 President determines that the criteria described in that
2 subsection are no longer being met.

3 (d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion shall be construed to limit the authority of the Presi-
5 dent to terminate the application of sanctions under sec-
6 tion 102 with respect to a person that no longer engages
7 in activities described in subsection (a)(2) of that section.

8 (e) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
9 **FINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
10 sional committees” means—

11 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
12 Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on
13 Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary,
14 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
15 of Representatives; and

16 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
17 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
18 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-
19 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate.

20 **SEC. 302. WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS.**

21 (a) **EXEMPTIONS.**—The following activities and
22 transactions shall be exempt from sanctions authorized
23 under this Act:

24 (1) Any activity subject to the reporting re-
25 quirements under title V of the National Security

1 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), or to any au-
2 thorized law enforcement, national security, or intel-
3 ligence activities of the United States.

4 (2) Any transaction necessary to comply with
5 United States obligations under—

6 (A) the Agreement regarding the Head-
7 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
8 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
9 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
10 tions and the United States;

11 (B) the Convention on Consular Relations,
12 done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered
13 into force March 19, 1967; or

14 (C) any other international agreement to
15 which the United States is a party.

16 (b) WAIVER.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for peri-
18 ods not to exceed 180 days, waive the application of
19 any provision of this Act with respect to a foreign
20 person if the President certifies to the appropriate
21 congressional committees that such a waiver is in
22 the national security interests of the United States.

23 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
24 the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and
25 every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains

1 in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate
2 congressional committees on the reasons for the
3 waiver.

4 (c) HUMANITARIAN WAIVER.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive,
6 for renewable periods not to exceed 2 years, the ap-
7 plication of any provision of this Act with respect to
8 a nongovernmental organization providing humani-
9 tarian assistance not covered by the authorization
10 described in section 201 if the President certifies to
11 the appropriate congressional committees that such
12 a waiver is important to address a humanitarian
13 need and is consistent with the national security in-
14 terests of the United States.

15 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and
17 every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains
18 in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate
19 congressional committees on the reasons for the
20 waiver.

21 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
22 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
23 gressional committees” means—

24 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
25 Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on

1 Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary,
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
3 of Representatives; and

4 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
5 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
6 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-
7 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate.

8 **SEC. 303. IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATORY AUTHORI-**
9 **TIES.**

10 (a) **IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.**—The President
11 may exercise all authorities provided to the President
12 under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
13 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704)
14 for purposes of carrying out this Act.

15 (b) **REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**—The President shall,
16 not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the
18 implementation of this Act.

19 **SEC. 304. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

20 Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the
21 authority of the President pursuant to the International
22 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et
23 seq.) or any other provision of law.

1 **SEC. 305. SUNSET.**

2 This Act shall cease to be effective on the date that
3 is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.