

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 5375, With an
Amendment**

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

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5375

To require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

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

A BILL

To require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

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

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
19 partners to support peace and prosperity, the rule of
20 law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the peace-
21 ful resolution of disputes, and democratic resilience
22 in the Indo-Pacific;

23 (3) the pledge from the first-ever Quad leaders
24 meeting on March 12, 2021, to address shared chal-
25 lenges, including in public health, cyberspace, critical
26 technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure

1 investment, and humanitarian assistance and dis-
2 aster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid the
3 foundation for critical cooperation among Quad
4 countries;

5 (4) the Quad countries, working through insti-
6 tutions, including the United States International
7 Development Finance Corporation, the Japan Inter-
8 national Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Bank
9 for International Cooperation, and through partner-
10 ships with multilateral development banks such as
11 the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank,
12 should finance development and infrastructure
13 projects in the Indo-Pacific region that are competi-
14 tive, transparent, and sustainable;

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

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

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

1 (A) sustain and deepen engagement be-
2 tween senior officials of the Quad countries on
3 a full spectrum of issues; and

4 (B) be modeled on the successful and long-
5 standing bilateral intra-parliamentary groups
6 between the United States and Mexico, Canada,
7 and the United Kingdom, as well as other for-
8 mal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

9 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

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

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

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

22 (2) A summary of—

23 (A) current and past Quad initiatives
24 across the whole of the United States Govern-
25 ment, including to promote broad based and in-

1 clusive economic growth and investment, and to
2 advance technology cooperation, energy innova-
3 tion, climate mitigation and adaptation, phys-
4 ical and digital infrastructure development, edu-
5 cation, disaster management, resilient supply
6 chains including in critical minerals, and global
7 health security;

8 (B) proposals agreed to by all Quad coun-
9 tries since January 2021 to deepen existing se-
10 curity cooperation, intelligence sharing, eco-
11 nomic partnerships, and multilateral coordina-
12 tion; and

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

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

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

23 (A) any new authorities needed to
24 strengthen United States leadership in and con-

1 tribution to existing and proposed Quad initia-
2 tives and programs; and

3 (B) additional resources needed to scale up
4 and expand successful Quad initiatives and pro-
5 grams.

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUAD INTRA-PARLIAMENTARY**
15 **WORKING GROUP.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
18 State shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Gov-
19 ernments of Japan, Australia, and India (collectively, with
20 the United States, known as the “Quad”) with the goal
21 of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Intra-
22 Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer coopera-
23 tion on shared interests and values.

24 (b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

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

8 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

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

15 (i) half shall be appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives,
17 based on recommendations from the minor-
18 ity leader, from among Members of the
19 House, not fewer than four of whom shall
20 be members of the Committee on Foreign
21 Affairs; and

22 (ii) half shall be appointed by the
23 President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
24 based on recommendations of the majority
25 leader and minority leader of the Senate,

1 from among Members of the Senate, not
2 fewer than four of whom shall be members
3 of the Committee on Foreign Relations
4 (unless the majority leader and minority
5 leader determine otherwise).

6 (3) MEETINGS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
8 Group shall seek to meet not less frequently
9 than annually with representatives and appro-
10 priate staff of the legislatures of Japan, Aus-
11 tralia, and India, and any other country invited
12 by mutual agreement of the Quad countries.

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

15 (i) in the United States;

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

18 (iii) virtually.

19 (4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

20 (A) HOUSE DELEGATION.—The Speaker of
21 the House of Representatives shall designate
22 the chairperson or vice chairperson of the dele-
23 gation of the United States Group from the
24 House from among members of the Committee
25 on Foreign Affairs.

1 (B) SENATE DELEGATION.—The President
2 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the
3 chairperson or vice chairperson of the delega-
4 tion of the United States Group from the Sen-
5 ate from among members of the Committee on
6 Foreign Relations.

7 (5) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States
8 Group may accept gifts or donations of services or
9 property, subject to the review and approval, as ap-
10 propriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House
11 of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of
12 the Senate.

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

19 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States
20 Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
21 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
22 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report
23 for each fiscal year for which an appropriation is
24 made for the United States Group, including a de-

1 scription of its expenditures under such appropria-
2 tion.

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

9 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

10 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
11 requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be car-
12 ried out using amounts otherwise authorized.