

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1632
OFFERED BY MRS. WAGNER OF MISSOURI**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Southeast Asia Strat-
3 egy Act”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Southeast Asia is the fulcrum of the Indo-
7 Pacific region, providing both a geographic and mar-
8 itime link between East and South Asia.

9 (2) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
10 (ASEAN), a regional intergovernmental organiza-
11 tion, remains central to the Indo-Pacific region’s in-
12 stitutional architecture and to United States foreign
13 policy toward the region.

14 (3) The United States has reaffirmed that the
15 security and sovereignty of its Southeast Asian allies
16 and partners, including a strong, independent
17 ASEAN, remain vital to the security, prosperity, and
18 stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

1 (4) The United States has committed to con-
2 tinuing to deepen longstanding alliances and part-
3 nerships with a range of Southeast Asian nations,
4 including by promoting our shared values, democ-
5 racy, human rights, and civil society.

6 (5) Since the end of the Second World War,
7 United States investments in strengthening alliances
8 and partnerships with Southeast Asian nations have
9 yielded tremendous returns for United States inter-
10 ests, as working with and through these alliances
11 and partnerships have increased the region's capac-
12 ity and capability to address common challenges.

13 (6) ASEAN member states are critical United
14 States security partners in preventing violent extre-
15 mism and protecting the freedom and openness of
16 the maritime domain and in preventing the traf-
17 ficking of weapons of mass destruction.

18 (7) ASEAN member states have contributed
19 significantly to regional disaster monitoring and
20 management and emergency response through initia-
21 tives such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for
22 Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management,
23 an inter-governmental organization that facilitates
24 coordination and cooperation among ASEAN mem-

1 ber states and international organizations in times
2 of emergency.

3 (8) According to the 2018 ASEAN Business
4 Outlook Survey, ASEAN member states are vital to
5 the prosperity of the United States economy and ex-
6 ports to ASEAN economies support more than
7 500,000 jobs in the United States.

8 (9) The United States and ASEAN have re-
9 cently celebrated the 40th anniversary of their ties
10 and established a new strategic partnership that will
11 enhance cooperation across the economic, political-
12 security, and people-to-people pillars of the relation-
13 ship.

14 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

15 It is the policy of the United States to—

16 (1) deepen cooperation with ASEAN and
17 ASEAN member states in the interest of promoting
18 peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific re-
19 gion;

20 (2) affirm the importance of ASEAN centrality
21 and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving institu-
22 tional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region; and

23 (3) establish and communicate a comprehensive
24 strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region that articu-
25 lates—

1 (A) the role and importance of Southeast
2 Asia to the United States;

3 (B) the value of the United States-ASEAN
4 relationship;

5 (C) the mutual interests of all parties;

6 (D) the concrete and material benefits all
7 nations derive from strong United States en-
8 gagement and leadership in Southeast Asia; and

9 (E) efforts to forge and maintain ASEAN
10 consensus, especially on key issues of political
11 and security concern to the region, such as the
12 South China Sea.

13 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST**
14 **ASIA AND ASEAN.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
17 in consultation with the heads of other Federal depart-
18 ments and agencies as appropriate, shall develop and sub-
19 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a com-
20 prehensive strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia
21 and ASEAN.

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

1 (1) A statement of enduring United States in-
2 terests in Southeast Asia and a description of efforts
3 to bolster the effectiveness of ASEAN.

4 (2) A description of efforts to—

5 (A) deepen and expand Southeast Asian al-
6 liances, partnerships, and multilateral engage-
7 ments, including efforts to expand broad based
8 and inclusive economic growth, security ties, se-
9 curity cooperation and interoperability, eco-
10 nomic connectivity, and expand opportunities
11 for ASEAN to work with other like-minded
12 partners in the region; and

13 (B) encourage like-minded partners outside
14 of the Indo-Pacific region to engage with
15 ASEAN.

16 (3) A summary of initiatives across the whole
17 of the United States Government to strengthen the
18 United States partnership with Southeast Asian na-
19 tions and ASEAN, including to promote broad based
20 and inclusive economic growth, trade, investment,
21 energy and efforts to combat climate change, public-
22 private partnerships, physical and digital infrastruc-
23 ture development, education, disaster management,
24 public health and economic and political diplomacy
25 in Southeast Asia.

1 (4) A summary of initiatives across the whole
2 of the United States Government to enhance the ca-
3 pacity of Southeast Asian nations with respect to en-
4 forcing international law and multilateral sanctions,
5 and initiatives to cooperate with ASEAN as an insti-
6 tution in these areas.

7 (5) A summary of initiatives across the whole
8 of the United States Government to promote human
9 rights and democracy, to strengthen the rule of law,
10 civil society, and transparent governance, and to
11 protect the integrity of elections from outside influ-
12 ence.

13 (6) A summary of initiatives to promote secu-
14 rity cooperation and security assistance within
15 Southeast Asian nations, including—

16 (A) maritime security and maritime do-
17 main awareness initiatives for protecting the
18 maritime commons and supporting international
19 law and freedom of navigation in the South
20 China Sea; and

21 (B) efforts to combat terrorism, human
22 trafficking, piracy, and illegal fishing, and pro-
23 mote more open, reliable routes for sea lines of
24 communication.

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 and the
5 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives; and

7 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
8 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

