

continues to play a critical role in advancing peace and stability in the region and in the ongoing campaign to defeat ISIL.

Jordan is a leader in the fight against Islamic extremism, conducting airstrikes, training partner nations and rebel forces, and supplying allies.

Due to the unrest in the region and the hosting of more than 700,000 Syrian refugees, Jordan's economy faces ongoing economic and security needs.

As chairwoman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee, I fought to ensure that the Jordanians have the support they need to address these many challenges.

The United States must continue to provide assistance Jordan needs to ensure its success in coalition operations, including strengthening the borders with Iraq and Syria. It is important for both their security and ours.

This support is a key component of the U.S. efforts to keep terrorism in check, create stability in the Middle East, and protect the American people. This assistance should not be delayed because of unnecessary bureaucracy. Such a valued partner deserves and needs our assistance immediately.

This resolution allows Jordan to be treated as if it were a member of the NATO-plus group of countries, which makes them eligible to receive special treatment for the transfer of U.S. defense articles and services.

This important bill must be enacted. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

□ 1415

LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

(Mr. CONNOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, this Congress must come up with a long-term infrastructure plan, and it must do it this month before the highway trust fund expires.

No great country can stay great without investing in its infrastructure. Throughout history, great leaders of both parties have understood there is a return on that investment. George Washington understood the need for internal improvements; so did Henry Clay. In the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and this Congress invested in the transcontinental railroad.

They had the vision to understand we were making decisions for future generations, and if we don't, China, India, Japan, and our competitors will. They are making the decisions we are not making. They are advancing while we are retreating in critical infrastructure investment.

The American people deserve better from this Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore THORBERRY on Friday, June 26, 2015:

H.R. 893, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1295, to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

UNITED STATES-JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2015

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 907) to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 907

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) As of January 22, 2015, the United States Government has provided \$3,046,343,000 in assistance to the Syria humanitarian response, of which nearly \$467,000,000 has been to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

(2) As of January 2015, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are 621,937 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan and 83.8 percent of those refugees live outside refugee camps.

(3) In 2000, the United States and Jordan signed a free-trade agreement that went into force in 2001.

(4) In 1996, the United States granted Jordan major non-NATO ally status.

(5) Jordan is suffering from the Syrian refugee crisis and the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

(6) The Government of Jordan was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council beginning in January 2014 and terminating in December 2015.

(7) Enhanced support for defense cooperation with Jordan is important to the national security of the United States, including through creation of a status in law for Jordan similar to the countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Japan, Aus-

tralia, the Republic of Korea, Israel, and New Zealand, with respect to consideration by Congress of foreign military sales to Jordan.

(8) The Colorado National Guard's relationship with the Jordanian military provides a significant benefit to both the United States and Jordan.

(9) Jordanian pilot Moaz al-Kasasbeh was brutally murdered by ISIL.

(10) On February 3, 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry and Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that reflects the intention to increase United States assistance to the Government of Jordan from \$660,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 per year for the years 2015 through 2017.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It should be the policy of the United States to support the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in its response to the Syrian refugee crisis, provide necessary assistance to alleviate the domestic burden to provide basic needs for the assimilated Syrian refugees, cooperate with Jordan to combat the terrorist threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist organizations, and help secure the border between Jordan and its neighbors Syria and Iraq.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that expeditious consideration of certifications of letters of offer to sell defense articles, defense services, design and construction services, and major defense equipment to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)) is fully consistent with United States security and foreign policy interests and the objectives of world peace and security.

SEC. 5. ENHANCED DEFENSE COOPERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan shall be treated as if it were a country listed in the provisions of law described in subsection (b) for purposes of applying and administering such provisions of law.

(b) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provisions of law described in this subsection are the following provisions of the Arms Export Control Act:

(1) Subsections (b)(2), (d)(2)(B), (d)(3)(A)(i), and (d)(5) of section 3 (22 U.S.C. 2753).

(2) Subsections (e)(2)(A), (h)(1)(A), (h)(2) of section 21 (22 U.S.C. 2761).

(3) Subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(6), (c), and (d)(2)(A) of section 36 (22 U.S.C. 2776).

(4) Section 62(c)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2796a(c)(1)).

(5) Section 63(a)(2) (22 U.S.C. 2796b(a)(2)).

SEC. 6. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

The Secretary of State is authorized, subject to the availability of appropriations, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to increase economic support funds, military cooperation, including joint military exercises, personnel exchanges, support for international peacekeeping missions, and enhanced strategic dialogue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements or extraneous materials for the RECORD on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 907, which is before us, is a simple, straightforward, commonsense bill that not only helps secure U.S. national security interests, but also the security interests of one of our closest allies in the Middle East, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

This bill will give Jordan the ability to buy defense articles, defense services, and major defense equipment under the Arms Export Control Act, as long as any sale is fully consistent with United States security and foreign policy interests and objectives.

The bill also supports the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in its response to the Syrian refugee crisis to help alleviate the domestic burden to provide basic needs for the assimilated Syrian refugees, and the bill also calls for greater cooperation with Jordan to fight the terrorist threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant—ISIL—or any other terrorist organization.

Late last year, Mr. Speaker, I introduced this bill after leading a congressional delegation to Jordan. We traveled to Jordan to see how the people of Jordan were dealing with the strains put on them from the humanitarian crisis developing in Syria.

The King of Jordan had taken in somewhere in the neighborhood of 1 million refugees, despite the toll it has taken on his country's infrastructure and resources; but despite the added pressures the Kingdom was facing from the refugee crisis, the King told us that one of the most pressing issues he was facing was the encroachment of ISIL toward his borders.

He stressed that he was willing to help lead the fight against ISIL, but he just did not have sufficient military equipment with which to do so.

I understand how important the stability and security of Jordan is not just for the region, but also for another strong ally of ours, the democratic Jewish State of Israel. It made sense that, in order to maintain the fragile stability in some of the countries in the region, we would need to help bolster the capabilities of our friends who are committed to defeating this radical extremist threat.

We marked up the bill in November of last year, but simply ran out of time at the end of the Congress. I reintroduced the bill again this year, alongside Mr. TED DEUTCH of Florida, the ranking member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee; KAY GRANGER, chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee; and NITA LOWEY, ranking member of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee.

I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL because it is through their leadership that we were

able to pass the bill out of the Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously this past April.

Mr. Speaker, in Jordan, the U.S. could not ask for a more committed partner in the fight against ISIL. King Abdullah is committed to that fight. He understands the urgency and need to address ISIL head on, and he has shown that he is willing to take the necessary measures to defeat these extremists, but he needs more resources to fight ISIL. He needs these resources to protect the security of his people.

Congress must do everything that we can to help our friends defend themselves and defeat this scourge of terror. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 907, the U.S.-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015. As the Middle East has become more unstable and as ISIS continues to terrorize the people of Syria, Iraq, and its neighbors, Jordan remains resolute. While ISIS threatens its borders and terrorizes its people, Jordan has fought back.

When Jordan Air Force pilot Captain al-Kasasbeh was brutally murdered—burned alive in a cage, Mr. Speaker—Jordan did not shrink; it did not retreat. Instead, it took even a more active role in airstrikes against the ISIS threat.

The Syrian civil war and instability created by ISIS has placed a tremendous pressure on the country of Jordan. Jordan has absorbed 620,000 Syrian refugees during this crisis. Its healthcare and educational systems are under severe strain as a result.

The United States has provided over \$460 million in response, on top of the over \$1 billion in bilateral foreign assistance Jordan received last year. In February, the U.S. and Jordanian Governments signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the intention to provide Jordan with \$1 billion per year for the next 3 years. This agreement and this legislation seek to ensure that Jordan is able to defend itself in the wake of these severe threats.

For the next 3 years, the bill would treat Jordan as a NATO member in how weapons sales and maintenance, manufacturing licensing agreements, and technical assistance are considered and notified to this Congress. The bill also authorizes a MOU with Jordan to increase economic and military assistance, as well as joint military operations.

The U.S.-Jordanian relationship is mutually beneficial. Now, more than ever, Jordan needs U.S. support. We need strong Jordanian resolve in the face of the threat against ISIL. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, let me close by noting that this bill is crucial because it shows that, if given proper assistance, the region can stand up for itself. This measure does not put U.S. boots on the ground. U.S. support and leadership is appreciated, of course, but Jordan is seeking to defend itself with our help.

We have had many solemn conversations in this body and on this floor about issues of war and peace. This bill demonstrates U.S. leadership in preparing others to fight their own battles, and that is an important strategy as we move forward. This legislation is consistent with that principle.

I urge my colleagues to give this their full support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Virginia, for his comments. I know that it comes from great experience. I believe that he also served as a staff member on the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate. That has definitely helped him form his opinions and expertise.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I am just amazed that my friend from Florida would be in possession of such intricate knowledge. I thank her for acknowledging it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Reclaiming my time, this bill could not come at a more important time, Mr. Speaker.

In March, I was honored to join Speaker BOEHNER on a congressional trip to Jordan in order to discuss the growing threat to that region. I had previously gone there on my own CODEL. Now, going back in March, I see how ISIL has created an even greater threat to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the refugee crisis continues to build up for the Kingdom of Jordan.

We expressed our appreciation to His Majesty for his steadfast commitment, to support his efforts to fight this ISIL threat, and help him with the burden of the refugees.

The King reiterated again his commitment to defeating ISIL and the need for more assistance from the international community. We told him that we would do what we could to ensure that he had all of the tools needed to win this fight against ISIL.

Since the coalition campaign against ISIL began, Mr. Speaker, the terror group has made great gains in Iraq and Syria. It has expanded its influence across the globe to places like Libya, Tunisia, Sinai, Europe, and even here in the United States.

Congress needs to do our part. We need to step up. We need to show our allies that we are committed to help them. They are taking the fight to ISIL. Let's help them with these tools. We need to show ISIL and all of our enemies that we will stand by our allies.

We will stand by our friends and help them do what is necessary—all that is necessary—to defeat terror and to defeat radical extremism.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital, important bill and support our key ally, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I would like to thank Mr. ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL again for their leadership, as well as Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. GRANGER, and Mrs. LOWEY.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 907, U.S.-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015.

The United States has no stronger partner in the Arab world than Jordan, and His Majesty King Abdullah II continues to be a pioneer in bolstering moderate political voices both in Jordan and throughout the Muslim world.

During such a tumultuous time in the region, with the rise of ISIL and the unprecedented humanitarian needs of millions of refugees, stability and security in Jordan remain vital to our own interests.

That is why this legislation is so important. It would help strengthen military and economic ties between our two countries.

As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, I remain committed to our strategic partnership with Jordan, and I will continue to work as hard as possible to promote stability, economic growth, and prosperity for the Jordanian people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 907, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERAN'S I.D. CARD ACT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 91) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Identification Card Act 2015".

SEC. 2. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Effective on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, veteran identification cards were issued to veterans who have either completed the statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement from the Armed Forces or who have received a medical-related discharge from the Armed Forces.

(2) Effective on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, a veteran who served a minimum obligated time in service, but who did not meet the criteria described in paragraph (1), did not receive a means of identifying the veteran's status as a veteran other than using the Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers of the veteran.

(3) Goods, services, and promotional activities are often offered by public and private institutions to veterans who demonstrate proof of service in the military, but it is impractical for a veteran to always carry Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers to demonstrate such proof.

(4) A general purpose veteran identification card made available to veterans would be useful to demonstrate the status of the veterans without having to carry and use official Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers.

(5) On the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs had the infrastructure in place across the United States to produce photographic identification cards and accept a small payment to cover the cost of these cards.

(b) PROVISION OF VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARDS.—Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 5705 the following new section:

"§5706. Veterans identification card

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall issue an identification card described in subsection (b) to each veteran who—

"(1) requests such card;

"(2) presents a copy of Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the service of the veteran; and

"(3) pays the fee under subsection (c)(1).

"(b) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—An identification card described in this subsection is a card issued to a veteran that—

"(1) displays a photograph of the veteran;

"(2) displays the name of the veteran;

"(3) explains that such card is not proof of any benefits to which the veteran is entitled to;

"(4) contains an identification number that is not a social security number; and

"(5) serves as proof that such veteran—

"(A) served in the Armed Forces; and

"(B) has a Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document in the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the service of the veteran.

"(c) COSTS OF CARD.—(1) The Secretary shall charge a fee to each veteran who receives an identification card issued under this section, including a replacement identification card.

"(2)(A) The fee charged under paragraph (1) shall equal such amount as the Secretary determines is necessary to issue an identification card under this section.

"(B) In determining the amount of the fee under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the total amount of fees collected under paragraph (1) equals an amount necessary to carry out this section, including costs related to any additional equipment or personnel required to carry out this section.

"(C) The Secretary shall review and reassess the determination under subparagraph (A) during each five-year period in which the Secretary issues an identification card under this section.

"(3) Amounts collected under this subsection shall be deposited in an account of the Department available to carry out this section. Amounts so deposited shall be—

"(A) merged with amounts in such account;

"(B) available in such amounts as may be provided in appropriation Acts; and

"(C) subject to the same conditions and limitations as amounts otherwise in such account.

"(d) EFFECT OF CARD ON BENEFITS.—(1) An identification card issued under this section shall not serve as proof of any benefits that the veteran may be entitled to under this title.

"(2) A veteran who is issued an identification card under this section shall not be entitled to any benefits under this title by reason of possessing such card.

"(e) ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that any information collected or used with respect to an identification card issued under this section is appropriately secured.

"(2) The Secretary may determine any appropriate procedures with respect to issuing a replacement identification card.

"(3) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall coordinate with the National Personnel Records Center.

"(4) The Secretary may conduct such outreach to advertise the identification card under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(f) CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be construed to affect identification cards otherwise provided by the Secretary to veterans enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of this title."

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5705 the following new item:

"5706. Veterans identification card."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on the Senate amendment to H.R. 91.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

□ 1430

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, many businesses show their gratitude to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans by offering special discounts on goods and services to those who have served our Nation in uniform.

Unfortunately, unless a servicemember is a qualified military retiree, DOD does not issue an official ID card as proof of service. That means that millions of veterans cannot easily provide evidence of their service.

This bill, as amended, would change that by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue a veteran's ID card that would display the veteran's name and photograph to any veteran who requests such a card, as long as the veteran is not entitled to military retired pay, nor enrolled in the VA healthcare system.

This card would give those who served in the Armed Forces a convenient way to prove that they are veterans, for the purpose of receiving the