

going to war, ladies and gentlemen, but war has been declared on the United States, on Israel, and on Europe. By George, it is time we declared war back on them. That is why we need to increase this memorandum of understanding to that \$5 billion mark for that year, and that will send a powerful message as to how strong Israel and the United States' relationship is.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman.

First of all, let me thank our distinguished chairman for offering yet another important bill in the fight against terrorism, especially as it relates to Hezbollah. The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015, has been very adequately explained by both the chairman and the ranking member. I don't want to be redundant, but it is a very, very important bill that will make a difference.

Hezbollah, as we all know, is a terrorist organization and is a proxy of the Iranian regime, which directly threatens our close ally Israel as well as ourselves. This bill would help hobble Hezbollah's ability to finance its terrorist activities, and it is strongly deserving of the support of every Member of this Chamber.

This bill sends a message to the administration. It seeks to mitigate at least some of the damage that has been unleashed by President Obama's misguided policy towards Iran, and by an egregiously flawed nuclear arms deal that lifts sanctions that will free up billions of dollars for the regime in Tehran to finance anti-American and anti-Israel terror groups, such as Hezbollah.

Let's not forget that Hezbollah is an organization that has attacked Americans. It not only fires missiles unprovoked—like Hamas—into Israel, but it finances all sorts of terror and bombings, including of U.S. Embassies. Many of the terrorists associated with Hezbollah were involved with the killing of the marines back in the early 1980s. One of those marines was Paul Innocenzi, from my district—from my hometown—who left behind his dear wife and children. She was left a widow, as were many others, by that horrific act of terrorism.

I ask Members to support this bill. Again, I thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership. I will remind my colleagues that, I think, to date, the chairman has had about 35—three dozen—hearings on Iran and on issues related to Iran. Every aspect of our misguided policy has been focused upon, as have the ideas that seek, to mitigate the damage. This is one of those initiatives. Interdict the money flow, and you can help to stop some of the terrorism.

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

Colleagues, in closing, we all know too well that Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terror and that its most destructive terrorist tool is Hezbollah. This group's nefarious activities are not limited to terrorism. They range from drug trafficking to other forms of illicit activity. Hezbollah has transformed into one of the world's most sophisticated and complex and dangerous terror organizations.

H.R. 2297 is the adequate response to meet this challenge. On the terror financing front, this bill would move the ball forward by sanctioning foreign banks for knowingly doing business with Hezbollah. The bill would also expose Hezbollah's television apparatus, as I mentioned before, Al-Manar, which is used for logistical, propaganda, and fundraising purposes.

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Again, I want to commend Chairman ROYCE and commend all the other people who worked so hard making this a reality. This will be signed into law. This will go to the President's desk. I think we can all be proud, once again, of the bipartisan way in which the Foreign Affairs Committee works.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would just remind our colleague that, yes, indeed, Hezbollah has cost the lives of 260 marines and other U.S. service personnel.

I would share with you that in 2006, during the second Lebanon war—during the Hezbollah war, as I would call it—I was in Haifa. At that time, I witnessed what were probably 4,000 to 5,000 rockets being fired over a period of time into Israel and saw firsthand the human cost of this.

I mentioned the 260 marines that died in two attacks. Going down to the trauma hospital and seeing firsthand the 600 victims of those Hezbollah attacks, including the realization that Hezbollah had tunneled underneath Israel's territory to bring fighters up within Israel, you see the impact that Iran's encouragement, money, and training is having on these terrorist fighters, and you see the consequence and the cost in terms of human lives lost.

Representative ELIOT ENGEL and I, after the Gaza conflict, by the way, were in one of these tunnels that came up right outside of a school. This one was coming from Hamas but, again, financed by Iran. The engineering work for the tunnels in Lebanon underneath the border there was, again, done by Iran.

You look at these rockets, whether they are the antiaircraft rockets or the antiship rockets and missiles or the ground-to-ground missiles, where do they get these rockets? They get them from Iran. When I was in Haifa, there were maybe 15,000 of those rockets.

Today, as you know, there are over 100,000.

Mr. ENGEL and I have held a number of hearings on this subject. But those 100,000 rockets have a much longer range, again, thanks to Iran. Hezbollah, in the meantime, is gaining in its position and strength monetarily, both from the money it gets from Iran and from its clandestine activities in smuggling. We have an opportunity with this legislation to cut off its international financing.

I want to thank my colleagues for their work because we have got to have a strategy that cuts off their illicit activities and that holds other countries and banking systems accountable. We have got to go after the vulnerabilities that Hezbollah has in terms of sustaining this terror network. Let's cut off their cash and their support system with this legislation. I urge passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2297.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 571. An act to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

FIRST RESPONDERS PASSPORT ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3750) to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3750

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 "First Responders Passport Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. PASSPORTS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1 of the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 (22