

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me note again that the tragedy of international abduction affects thousands of children every year here in the United States.

When the Committee on Foreign Affairs considered this bill back on October 10, we heard from multiple members whose constituents were dealing with the nightmare of being illegally separated from their children, and our human rights subcommittee heard directly from several left-behind American parents in a May 9 hearing. H.R. 3212, by Mr. SMITH, is a measured response to this pressing problem.

I want to again thank the gentleman from New Jersey for the vision and for the perseverance, frankly, reflected in his bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

For many years, David Goldman was my constituent, so I am intimately familiar with both the case and the incredible pain and heartbreak David endured after the kidnapping of his son, Sean, by David's estranged, Brazilian-born wife who illegally took Sean back to Brazil. I will not recount now all of the details of the five-year long ordeal David endured to secure the return of his son. What I will say is that my experience in helping him bring Sean home helped me understand that the issue of parental child abduction needs greater attention from our government.

In his efforts to get his son returned to him, Mr. Goldman at least benefited from the fact that both Brazil (where the boy was being held illegally) and the United States are parties to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The Hague Convention creates an international legal framework for resolving such parental kidnappings. The treaty is anything but perfect; it lacks any genuine enforcement mechanism, which means that many of these cases drag on for years, just as the Goldman case did. However, the situation is far worse for parents whose spouse kidnaps their child and returns to their country of origin when that country is not a party to the Hague Convention. In those cases, the remaining parent has virtually no recourse to secure the return of their abducted child. The bill before us seeks to change that situation.

I especially support the language in the bill that directs the Secretary of State to engage in negotiations with non-Hague signatory nations where large numbers of American children remain illegally held by the offending parent to secure their release. Seeking the creation of a bilateral memorandum of understanding to help resolve these cases is an important interim step on the road to a larger, more enduring solution. I do have concerns about the language in this bill requiring the President to impose an escalating series of sanctions against nations who refuse to address parental kidnappings of American children. In my view, the language as written could potentially interfere with the President's ability to conduct effective diplomacy on this issue. However, once this bill reaches the Senate I am sure there will be opportunities to

amend it in such a fashion that it will be able to accomplish the intended goal (the return of abducted children) without permanently damaging diplomatic relations with other nations.

One thing is clear: existing American parental child abduction cases are not being resolved expeditiously, and I agree with those who argue that the United States needs to send a clear message that the status quo on this issue cannot stand. Accordingly I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3212—the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2013, which would help prevent additional child abductions to foreign countries in the future.

Recently, I was able to meet with a constituent of mine—Michael Elias. Michael has worked in the Bergen County Sheriffs Department and honorably served our country in the Iraq War. Upon his return from his service to our country, Michael and his wife, a citizen of Japan, agreed to separate.

In 2008, a Bergen County judge ordered joint custody of their two children—Jade and Michael, Jr. The judge also ordered that the children's passports be surrendered and they were. After a few months, on a day like any other, Michael was expecting his ex-wife to drop off Jade and Michael, Jr. to his house after spending the day with her. They never showed up. Somehow, his ex-wife was able to obtain new passports for Jade and Michael, Jr. and had fled to Japan, which is not a party to the Hague Convention on Abduction.

Despite Michael's years of inquiries and toil, The Government of Japan has produced no answers on how his ex-wife was able to obtain the new visas for Jade and Michael, Jr. And nearly five years later, Michael has not been able see his own children.

This bill will help countless families across the country that face the same heartbreaking situation that Michael Elias is still dealing with today. Our State Department must be on the frontlines for people like Michael, who have literally put their life on the line for this country. H.R. 1951 will empower the State Department to advocate for the victims of these tragic abductions.

And that is why I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3212, for people like Michael Elias and the countless families that have been wrongfully torn apart.

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 pass the bill, H.R. 3212, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

#### ISRAEL QME ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1992) to amend the requirements relating to assessment of Israel's qualitative military edge over military threats, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1992

*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 "Israel QME Enhancement Act".

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO ASSESSMENT OF ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE OVER MILITARY THREATS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED; REPORTS.—Section 201 of Public Law 110-429 (122 Stat. 4843; 22 U.S.C. 2776 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "an ongoing basis" and inserting "a biennial basis"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in the heading, by striking "QUADRENNIAL" and inserting "BIENNIAL"; and

(B) in the text, by striking "Not later than four years after the date on which the President transmits the initial report under paragraph (1), and every four years thereafter," and inserting "Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Israel QME Enhancement Act, and biennially thereafter,".

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(A) the range of cyber and asymmetric threats posed to Israel by state and non-state actors; and

(B) the joint efforts of the United States and Israel to address the threats identified in subparagraph (A).

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add any extraneous material to the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Let me begin by thanking both the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for their leadership and for their foresight in authoring this very important measure.

In shepherding this legislation through the committee, I was again reminded of the shared commitment of Members of both parties to come together to promote Israel's security. It is an example of bipartisanship at its best.

The United States' commitment to Israel rests on the assurance that the U.S., through a combination of Foreign Military Financing, the joint cooperative development of weapons systems and other measures, will ensure that Israel upholds its qualitative military edge. The standard definition of that is ensuring Israel's ability to counter and defeat credible military threats from any individual state or coalition of states or nonstate actors, and with the growing threat to Israel throughout the region—from the prospect of a nuclear Iran to an ascendant Hezbollah and widespread regional instability—Israel's retention of its QME is critical to its existence.

I had a chance to see this firsthand in 2006 during the second Lebanon war, which I, frankly, think should be called the "Hezbollah war." Hezbollah was raining down rockets manufactured originally in Iran and Syria on a daily basis on Haifa. When I was in Haifa, I watched those rockets come in, and they were being aimed at civilian neighborhoods. They were also being aimed at the hospital there. On one trip, I went down to the hospital to see the results.

Haifa is a very cosmopolitan city as one-third of Haifa is Israeli Jews, another third is Arab Israelis, another third is Druze and other minorities. The people in that city faced a constant bombardment for 30 days. While we were there, we had an opportunity to talk to some of the families, to some of the survivors—600 civilian victims from that attack in that trauma hospital. They told us how those missiles manufactured in Iran—this was before the invention of the Iron Dome, so there was no defense to this—would come into the civilian neighborhoods—90,000 ball bearings—and they would just go through the walls, through cars, through a shop. This is what led, basically, to a siege-like setting in which families were underground; but as they would try to come up at some point, they would be spotted from the other side, from the border, and once again, Hezbollah would try to hit that family, to hit that township.

This is what Haifa was going through. It is a reminder of the threat that Israel needs the best technology to combat these and other terrorist attacks. It is a relief that now Israel does have the Iron Dome, that there is warning, that there is the ability of some type of response other than the type of counterbattery work that we saw as they were trying to silence those rockets, which were never silenced, which came in for 30 days.

In 2008, Congress required the President to assess on an ongoing basis the extent to which Israel possesses a qualitative military edge over the threats that are arrayed against it. Those threats are all too real. Currently, the assessment is done every 4 years. Currently, it focuses only on the conventional military threats to Israel. This bill would require that Congress receive that assessment on a timely basis, at least every 2 years. It would also require the administration to specify a separate onetime report integrating cyber and asymmetric threats to Israel into this overall security assistance framework. This is very important given the new types of terror—suicide bombings and the rest of it and cyber warfare—that are being developed on either side of the border from Hamas to Hezbollah.

These provisions will provide Congress critical information that it requires in a timely manner to assess Israel's security requirements as Israel tries to deal with everything from the threat in Iran to all of the other terrorist organizations that are proxies for Iran. It also sends the right message at the right time to our mutual friends and foes alike that the United States and Israel stand together.

So I strongly support the immediate passage. I thank, again, Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. COLLINS for their good work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1992, the Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for working so diligently with my office, and I want to thank Congressman DOUG COLLINS for bringing this important legislation before the House floor. I want to personally thank my friend and colleague Mr. COLLINS for all of the work he has done and that we have done together to make sure this bill becomes a reality.

Israel stands at an historic juncture. In a very dangerous neighborhood, Israel must have the capabilities to deal with a broad spectrum of potential conventional and asymmetric threats. With the United States negotiating with Iran over its nuclear weapons program, it is vitally important that we continue to give Israel all of the tools necessary to address a growing list of threats. That is why Representative COLLINS and I have introduced this important and timely bill—to help further safeguard the technological edge Israel has in defending herself and in safeguarding human life for all of her citizens.

This bill expands upon existing requirements that the United States aid Israel in developing defense-capable systems for safeguarding the Israeli homeland against conventional and

asymmetrical threats. Previously, this cooperation has resulted in the highly successful Iron Dome system along with the continued development of the Arrow and the David's Sling series of military hardware.

Despite this capability, Israel now faces the threat of regional insecurity with a virtual failed state on its border with Syria, hundreds of thousands of rockets and mortars being stockpiled by Hezbollah in Lebanon, ongoing rocket fire from Hamas on the Gaza Strip, increasing terrorist activity in the Sinai, and, most importantly, the continued existential threat of Iran and its accelerating nuclear program. The U.S. can and must do more to aid Israel in addressing all of these threats in a comprehensive way.

The bill before us would specifically encourage greater cooperation between Israel and the United States in developing new weapons, tactics and procedures that will safeguard them from the growing threats of cyber warfare and asymmetrical military threats such as terrorist activity. Increased reporting and coordination will allow the United States and Israel to continue their mutually beneficial research and intelligence programs to create a more secure and prosperous region—one that can safeguard human life to the maximum extent possible. By increasing the frequency of assessment from 4 years to 2, the Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act will help ensure Israel is always prepared to confront constantly evolving conventional and asymmetrical threats.

I again want to thank the chairman and ranking member for their support of this legislation. I also want to thank the other cosponsors of this bill, including Representative COLLINS, for their hard work to hone this bill over the last few months. I would especially like to thank Vernon Robinson, Jr., who worked so diligently with my staff to shepherd this bill to the House floor today.

I strongly ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the author of this bill, and we want to thank him for being such an active member of our committee.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate that. I do appreciate what your staff and others have done, the ranking member, in moving this legislation through. And also my good friend from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) in where we have been able to work together. I would be remiss also if I did not recognize Vernon Robinson from my staff as well, who is with me today, who has kept this going

while we have worked. So I appreciate his work and the rest of our staff in doing so.

I introduced H.R. 1992, the Israel QME Enhancement Act, to ensure our commitment to Israel's qualitative military edge remains substantial and meaningful.

This legislation allows Congress to conduct oversight of weapon sales in the Middle East with increased frequency. Due to the instability in the region, it is vitally important that the qualitative military edge review process be updated to reflect the needs of Israel. H.R. 1992 accomplishes this goal by directing the President to report to Congress every 2 years regarding the assessment of Israel's qualitative military edge over military threats to Israel and related weapon sales in the Middle East.

This is a marked improvement over our current law, which only requires such a report to be issued every 4 years.

H.R. 1992 also requires the President to issue a report to Congress on the criteria issued to include cyber and asymmetric threats in the QME report.

Large conventional armies are less likely to mobilize against Israel, but terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas are a constant threat. I am very concerned by the cyber attacks that have been launched against Israel, as well as the continued onslaught of terrorist attacks that threaten the security and stability of this peace-loving nation.

The QME doctrine originated during the Johnson administration, but came into practice during the Yom Kippur War in 1973 when the United States conducted one of the largest military airlifts in history to resupply Israel with military hardware. Since Israel's victory in the conflict, the United States has sworn to ensure Israel's qualitative military edge remains strong, as surrounding Middle Eastern countries often possess a quantitative advantage.

The benefits of the Israeli-American relationship are undeniable. Our alliance has been vital for each nation's intelligence efforts. Both nations have provided valuable information that has saved the lives of civilians, as well as military personnel.

I have recognized the value of America's partnership for many years, and I am humbled and grateful to now be in a position where I can support this alliance on the floor of the House.

America's support for Israel should be strong and responsive to the changing threats facing our ally. Their military threat is a vital component to promoting stability and peace in the Middle East. I am pleased by the steadfast commitment this body and our leadership have shown in maintaining a vibrant partnership with Israel.

As the vice chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East

and North Africa, I am committed to promoting policy decisions that ensure Israel will be equipped to maintain the only stable democracy in the Middle East.

In recent weeks, there have been rounds of negotiations concerning Iran's nuclear capabilities. As a result of these negotiations, an agreement was reached with Iran, the details of which put Israel in a very difficult position.

Many questions remain about Iran's continued ability to enrich uranium and the billions of dollars they will gain in sanctions relief, questions such as: Where will these be used and how will the money be used for other attacks such as Hezbollah or others in this area?

One thing I am certain of, however, is the savings will not be spent on any effort advantageous to U.S. or Israel. Now more than ever, Congress must demonstrate its unwavering commitment to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relations during such an unpredictable time in the Middle East. This is something that is needed. It is something for our friend Israel. It protects our interests and protects Israel's interests.

With that, I would urge support of H.R. 1992.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman again for the time.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1992, the Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act, authored by my colleague and the vice chair of our Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. COLLINS.

There is no better time than now, Mr. Speaker, to pass this bill and send our closest friend and ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel, and the rest of the world a strong message that the United States Congress stands resolutely with Israel and her right to defend herself.

The U.S. and other world leaders lamentably acquiesced and relented on the Iran nuclear deal and offered concessions to the regime in Tehran that do nothing to dismantle its nuclear program. Even as the negotiations carried on, Iran was busy making advancements to its nuclear weapons program. Shortly after the deal, Iran announced that it had made significant progress on its ballistic missile program. And just this last weekend, Mr. Speaker, the regime announced that it was moving ahead with testing on more efficient and sophisticated centrifuges.

There can be no mistaking these actions. They all add up to Iran continuing down its path of achieving a full nuclear weapons program. Mr.

Speaker, we have heard this rhetoric that has been coming out of Iran for years now. The regime does not recognize Israel's right to exist. It denies the Holocaust. It repeats its calls to wipe Israel off the map, and "death to Israel" is chanted throughout the country.

Iran is an existential threat to Israel's very existence; and now more than ever, we need to ensure that Israel remains not just one step ahead of those who seek to do her harm, but light years ahead.

In conclusion, there is no room for error as Iran inches closer and closer to having nuclear breakout capability. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure, expressing our strong support for Israel to have a qualitative military edge.

I thank my chairman, as well as Mr. COLLINS, the author of the bill.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my colleagues from Georgia and Illinois for their work on this matter. It is incredibly important; and, as Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN mentioned a minute ago, the challenges that Israel are facing are incredibly significant.

The challenges are moving very, very quickly, Mr. Speaker. There is a storm cloud that is brewing; and rather than waiting to recalibrate, this bill says let's evaluate how Israel is doing in terms of a qualitative military advantage and edge more frequently.

As we know, if Israel is strong in the Middle East, good things happen. If Israel is weak in the Middle East, good things don't happen.

We have an opportunity now for the House to stand with Israel. As mentioned before by Mr. COLLINS a minute ago, it is not just for Israel's sake; but it is clearly in the best interest of the United States.

There is one democratic ally in the Middle East, and that is the State of Israel. It is incumbent upon us as a co-equal branch of government to encourage the administration to do the right thing, not just from Israel's point of view but from the long-term strategic interest of the United States.

I am a cosponsor of this legislation. I am pleased that it is being brought under the leadership of Chairman ROYCE and his committee to the House floor. I urge its passage.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Judge POE, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-proliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, all around Israel things are in tremendous turmoil.

To Israel's south, Egypt is experiencing its worst period of unrest in 50 years. There is no elected government, and there won't be until next year. The economy is on a ventilator in Egypt. It is propped up only by billions of dollars of aid from Gulf countries.

The Muslim Brotherhood is openly fighting the interim government with armed mobs. Terrorists and vagabonds in the always lawless Sinai Peninsula are only encouraged by the weakened state of Cairo.

To Israel's north, Syria has become the world's hotspot for terrorists. Terrorists like al Qaeda and Hezbollah are streaming in, with no end in sight. Out-of-town criminals have come into the country to wreak havoc.

To Israel's east, already fragile Jordan is being overrun with Syrian refugees and infiltrated by terrorists as well.

A little further east, al Qaeda is wreaking havoc in Iraq. There is more violence there than at any point since 2008.

And to the far east, mischief regime of the desert, Iran is closer than ever to obtaining a nuclear weapon that can enable it to fulfill its threat to wipe Israel off the map.

When I met with Prime Minister Netanyahu 2 weeks ago, he was clear that Israel cannot accept Iran as a nuclear threshold power if Israel wants to continue to exist as a people. He called our interim deal with Iran the worst deal of the century. I agree with him. It seems that we not only gave away the farm; we gave away the mineral rights as well. We took our best diplomatic tool, sanctions, off the table. The biggest problem with the deal was that it made a peaceful solution more unlikely.

With all of these threats surrounding it, we need to stand side by side and let the world know—our enemies and our friends—that we are allies of Israel. They are the U.S.'s strongest ally.

Israel is the only democracy in the region and the only one that respects human rights. It is in their national security interest and our national security interest to ensure Israel can defend itself from the ever-changing military threats. The enemies they have in the neighborhood are enemies to us as well.

I support H.R. 1992. The bill will make sure, too, that Israel's enemies do not gain a military advantage over the State of Israel. I urge its passage.

And that's just the way it is.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States has no more important relationship, not just in the region but in the world,

than the strategic, unbreakable alliance with the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Israel's security is our security. Israel's security must not in any way be compromised.

As has been noted here already, Israel lives in a most dangerous neighborhood. Her security is dependent on a clearly demonstrated permanently sustained qualitative military edge. This bill, H.R. 1992, improves and enhances our relationship with Israel to guarantee her qualitative military edge in a very dangerous neighborhood.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1992 and to protect Israel's security.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, let me again stress the importance of the relationship with our ally Israel.

Let me thank Mr. COLLINS for his leadership in authoring this important measure and thank Mr. SCHNEIDER. I am a cosponsor of this bill as well, and let me say we have many common threats, especially Iran's nuclear program.

This measure, H.R. 1992, is a testament to the American people's enduring commitment to the security of Israel. I hope to see it passed today.

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1992—the Israel QME Enhancement Act. I would like to commend the author of this legislation and colleague from Georgia, Mr. COLLINS, for his leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank the Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ROYCE of California and Ranking Member ENGEL of New York on quickly moving this bill through the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that our strongest ally in the Middle East is the State of Israel. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to provide them with our unwavering support. In order to uphold this commitment, we must understand the ongoing security threats to Israel. H.R. 1992 helps achieve this goal by increasing the frequency by which the Secretary of State must report to Congress on Israel's qualitative military edge (QME).

Unfortunately, Israel is constantly on alert from various threats to its existence, particularly cyber and asymmetric ones. In fact, regional, Iran has stated that its desire to "wipe Israel off the map." Therefore, despite the interim agreement between the P5+1 that was adopted on November 24, 2013, I still believe that it is critically important that we prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

Congress took an important step during 2012 by implementing economic sanctions on Iran through the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012. This important legislation punishes individuals who knowingly sell more than 1,000,000 barrels of refined product, or individuals that sell, lease, or provide Iran with goods, services, technology, or information.

However, despite these sanctions, Iran's nuclear program has continued to grow. Earlier this year in June, the International Atomic Energy Agency stated that Tehran was violating international regulations by increasing the number of centrifuges. Although the November 24th interim agreement caps Iran's proliferation at 5%, I remain skeptical of Iran's motive for continued nuclear activity.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the bill we have before today is absolutely essential in assisting Israel. By increasing the QME reports delivered to Congress, we can oversee the potential emerging threats that Israel will face in the future. I urge all of my colleague to join me in supporting H.R. 1992.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, given the geopolitical history of the region, the U.S. fully understands Israel's need to be better armed than its neighbors.

Potentially threatening Arab countries surrounding Israel have superior numbers, which is the reason why Israel needs to maintain a qualitative edge.

As Iran creeps ever closer to obtaining a nuclear weapon, this qualitative edge has become all the more important.

As our closest ally in the region, we should do all we can to prevent Israel from being put in harm's way.

I believe the legislation before us today does precisely that and I thank the gentleman from Georgia and my colleague on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. COLLINS, for authoring this bill.

This legislation improves our policy of ensuring Israel's safety by better reflecting the security environment of its potential adversaries.

Israel is mostly attacked by unconventional weapons and those weapons should be considered into the QME.

As cyber-attacks are increasingly being used as a means of warfare, Israel needs to maintain a competitive edge, while countries such as Iran attempt to increase their cyber capabilities.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one of the cornerstones of America's security commitment to Israel is an assurance that the United States will help maintain Israel's capability to defend itself, by itself. We do this by safeguarding Israel's qualitative military edge (QME)—the ability for Israel to counter and defeat any threat that might arise from non-state actors, individual states, or even a regional coalition of states.

Four decades after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when a coalition of Arab states launched a surprise attack against Israel on the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Israel continues to face hostilities on every border: rocket fire from Hamas and Hezbollah, spillover from the conflict in Syria, increased terrorism in Egypt's Sinai, and the ever-looming threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

That is why it is critical we redouble our efforts to ensure Israel has the tools necessary to counter any and all threats. H.R. 1992, the Israel QME Enhancement Act, is an important piece of bipartisan legislation that does just that, by preserving and strengthening Israel's QME. Specifically, this law would expand the definition of QME to include defense against

cyber and asymmetric threats while also increasing the Administration's reporting requirements to Congress from every 4 to every 2 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1992.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1992, as amended.

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.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1436

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY) at 2 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.

#### GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST RESEARCH ACT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2019) to eliminate taxpayer financing of presidential campaigns and party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2019

*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 "Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act".

##### SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF TAXPAYER FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTY CONVENTIONS; USE OF FUNDS FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

(a) TERMINATION OF PAYMENTS FOR CONVENTIONS; USE OF FUNDS FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH.—Section 9008 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) TERMINATION OF PAYMENTS FOR CONVENTIONS; USE OF AMOUNTS FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Effective on the date

of the enactment of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act—

“(1) the entitlement of any major party or minor party to a payment under this section shall terminate; and

“(2) all amounts in each account maintained for the national committee of a major party or minor party under this section shall be transferred to a fund in the Treasury to be known as the ‘10-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund’, which shall be available only for the purpose provided in section 402A(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, and only to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.”.

(b) CONTINUATION OF PRIORITY OF PAYMENTS FROM ACCOUNTS OVER PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES.—The third sentence of section 9006(c) of such Code is amended by striking “section 9008(b)(3),” and inserting “section 9008(i)(2).”.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS FROM PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY MATCHING PAYMENT ACCOUNT.—The second sentence of section 9037(a) of such Code is amended by striking “section 9008(b)(3)” and inserting “section 9008(i)(2).”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF REPORTS BY FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.—Section 9009(a) of such Code is amended—

(A) by adding “and” at the end of paragraph (2);

(B) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking paragraphs (4), (5), and (6).

(2) ELIMINATION OF PENALTIES.—Section 9012 of such Code is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking the second sentence;

(B) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(C) in subsection (e)(1), by striking the second sentence; and

(D) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “, or in connection with any expense incurred by the national committee of a major party or minor party with respect to a presidential nominating convention”.

##### SEC. 3. 10-YEAR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

(a) ALLOCATION OF NIH FUNDS IN COMMON FUND FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH.—Paragraph (7) of section 402(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(7)(A) shall, through the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives—

“(i) identify research that represents important areas of emerging scientific opportunities, rising public health challenges, or knowledge gaps that deserve special emphasis and would benefit from conducting or supporting additional research that involves collaboration between 2 or more national research institutes or national centers, or would otherwise benefit from strategic coordination and planning;

“(ii) include information on such research in reports under section 403; and

“(iii) in the case of such research supported with funds referred to in subparagraph (B)—

“(I) require as appropriate that proposals include milestones and goals for the research;

“(II) require that the proposals include timeframes for funding of the research; and

“(III) ensure appropriate consideration of proposals for which the principal investi-

gator is an individual who has not previously served as the principal investigator of research conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health;

“(B)(i) may, with respect to funds reserved under section 402A(c)(1) for the Common Fund, allocate such funds to the national research institutes and national centers for conducting and supporting research that is identified under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) shall, with respect to funds appropriated to the Common Fund pursuant to section 402A(a)(2), allocate such funds to the national research institutes and national centers for making grants for pediatric research that is identified under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) may assign additional functions to the Division in support of responsibilities identified in subparagraph (A), as determined appropriate by the Director.”.

(b) FUNDING FOR 10-YEAR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Section 402A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and moving the indentation of each such subparagraph 2 ems to the right;

(B) by striking “For purposes of carrying out this title” and inserting the following:

“(1) THIS TITLE.—For purposes of carrying out this title”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) FUNDING FOR 10-YEAR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE THROUGH COMMON FUND.—For the purpose of carrying out section 402(b)(7)(B)(ii), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Common Fund, out of the 10-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund described in section 9008 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and in addition to amounts otherwise made available under paragraph (1) of this subsection and reserved under subsection (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section, \$12,600,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.”; and

(2) in subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(1)(D), and (d), by striking “subsection (a)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”.

(c) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT; PROHIBITION AGAINST TRANSFER.—Funds appropriated pursuant to section 402A(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by subsection (b)—

(1) shall be used to supplement, not supplant, the funds otherwise allocated by the National Institutes of Health for pediatric research; and

(2) notwithstanding any transfer authority in any appropriation Act, shall not be used for any purpose other than allocating funds for making grants as described in section 402(b)(7)(B)(ii) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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