

fight against synthetic drug trafficking.

Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are among the deadliest illicit substances in the drug industry today. In my home State of Maryland, fentanyl was involved in 93 percent of all opioid deaths in 2020, and opioid-related deaths were up 46 percent in western Maryland in 2020, compared to the same time last year.

We need to act now if we are going to put an end to these senseless deaths, and we cannot do it alone. That is why I am so grateful for the work of the bipartisan Commission.

The Commission's membership includes the best of the best. From the administration, we have representatives from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, DEA, DHS, DOD, Treasury, State, and the Director of National Intelligence.

In Congress, Republican Congressman FRED UPTON and Democrat Senator ED MARKEY, two champions in the fight against addiction, are working alongside Senator COTTON and me.

We have a number of experts from outside government, including Karen Tandy, Sandy Winnefeld, and other distinguished individuals. We are grateful that Kemp Chester, from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, guides our work as executive director. We are lucky to have the expertise of the experts at RAND working to find solutions for this incredibly difficult challenge.

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to begin our work as soon as we would have liked. For that reason, we must pass this simple but crucial bill to extend the work of the Commission until February of next year.

This extension will allow us to continue our important work and produce a report with actionable steps that will combat the flow of synthetic opioids into our country and, most importantly, save lives.

I urge a "yes" vote.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) for the work that he is doing.

Having served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and now serving on Judiciary as the chair of the Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee, I can affirmatively say that fentanyl kills. It kills people. It kills our children, our mothers, our fathers. It kills the family's infrastructure and system.

So let me just simply indicate that the idea of having an extension of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking to join in the thoughtful discussion of what we are attempting to do on drugs that kill.

We in the Judiciary Committee have been working and secured an extension

of fentanyl sanctions, and it was in acknowledgment that the community is suffering by the harmful effects of fentanyl abuse and usage. It was acknowledging that it is imperative that we find a thoughtful resolution to address the grave tragedies that plague communities like mine and those throughout the country.

Earlier, I mentioned names of individuals who were on the other side in terms of incarceration because of the imbalance in drug enforcement. But, again, we say that fentanyl kills.

Given the importance of getting this right, I am in support of extending the measure in Judiciary, but I am in support of having the opportunity for thoughtful discussion to deal with what our next steps are.

Any way that we can come together to address the loss of life and, of course, the acceptance that fentanyl kills, and other opioid substances as well, used and abused, then I can assure you that we are doing the right thing as Members of Congress.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as noted, the battle we wage against the illicit distribution of fentanyl is ongoing. Extending the time allows the Commission to provide us a better understanding of the challenges we face and includes a strategy to address it. The valuable work of this Commission is critical to addressing this poison in our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

According to the National Institutes of Health, in 2018, 128 people died each day from opioid overdoses. We must not lose sight of the devastating toll these drugs are taking on our country. We need to tackle the opioid crisis from every angle. I am hopeful that passing this bill will take us one step closer to ending this epidemic.

I again thank Mr. TRONE for urging this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4981, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4981.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

WAR CRIMES REWARDS EXPANSION ACT

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

(H.R. 4250) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4250

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 "War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS PROGRAM.

Paragraph (10) of section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended by striking "defined under the statute of such tribunal;" and inserting the following: "defined under—
“(A) the statute of such country or tribunal, as the case may be; or
“(B) United States law;”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4250.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4250, the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act, authored by Representative Foxx.

The bill broadens the State Department rewards program for individuals or whistleblowers who come forward with and provide information on genocide or war crimes. It clarifies that the rewards can also be provided for prosecutions that fall under domestic law, including American law or the law of another nation, in addition to international law.

We have seen, time and again, that whistleblower programs are the most effective type of compliance mechanism, and the State Department rewards program itself is a proven tool for bringing the perpetrators of atrocities to justice.

The United States must continue to demonstrate that we are steadfast in our commitment to holding war criminals accountable and that the mechanisms we have in place to bring about their arrest are flexible and robust.

This bill is straightforward. By expanding the scope of what rewards can be paid for information, we will incentivize more individuals to come forward and gain more information with which to find and prosecute these criminals.

This legislation has passed the House in previous Congresses, and we hope

this bill can make it across the finish line this time around.

This is an important measure. I support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act.

Sadly, we live in a world where crimes against humanity still occur. We have seen three declared genocides in just the last 20 years: in Darfur in 2004, by ISIS in 2016, and the one in Xinjiang that was formally declared by Secretary Mike Pompeo before he left office earlier this year.

We have, of course, also seen the horrific ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya in Burma. We have seen atrocities committed by Assad against his own people in Syria.

But bringing the criminals behind these massacres to justice can be difficult. That is why, 35 years ago, we enacted the State Department rewards program. It authorizes the Secretary of State to offer rewards for the arrest or conviction of some of the most dangerous people in the world.

□ 1345

Originally written to be used against international terrorists, this successful program has since been expanded to include drug traffickers, war criminals, and perpetrators of genocide.

As the world changes and as international criminals evolve, we need to make sure this important program evolves with them.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act. This bill makes clear that these rewards are not just meant to support international tribunals. They can also be used to bring these dangerous criminals to justice here in the United States under United States law.

I want to thank the author of the bill, the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX, for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. KIM of CALIFORNIA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the author of the bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for yielding.

I want to thank especially the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. RASKIN, for his support on this bill as well as my other colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bipartisan bill, which will enhance the domestic prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Though we often think of these atrocities as being tried at inter-

national tribunals, there are many domestic statutes as well that criminalize genocide and war crimes. It is important that we can apply domestic law in the prosecution of these criminals, and this bill allows the State Department's War Crimes Rewards Program to offer rewards for the arrest or conviction of perpetrators of these atrocities.

Earlier this month, we witnessed our domestic justice system prosecuting war crimes and acts of terrorism. One of the now infamous associates of Jihadi John just pled guilty to all eight counts against him in a U.S. district court. He played a leading role in the ISIS plan to kidnap, hold for ransom, and ultimately behead four American hostages. Domestic prosecution can bring swift justice and allows nations to hold perpetrators more directly accountable to those that they have wronged, such as the victims' families.

With passage of the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act, we can see even more perpetrators of atrocities against Americans brought to justice.

During just the last 20 years, we have witnessed three declared genocides: Darfur in 2004, ISIS in 2016, and the Xinjiang province in 2021. We want those who commit these atrocities and heinous crimes to feel the weight of the law pressing in on them and feel that America is hunting for them. We want them never to feel safe, never find rest, and we know we will not rest until they are brought to justice.

This bill will help make America safer and bring perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

Mrs. KIM of CALIFORNIA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Department of State's rewards program serves an important purpose by turning the tables on dangerous foreign terrorists and human rights violators so they face the justice they so rightly deserve.

I want to thank Dr. FOXX for her work on this bill and Chairman MEEKS for bringing this bill to the floor and giving us the opportunity to clarify this important authority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act would broaden the State Department's rewards program by clarifying that rewards can also be provided for prosecutions that fall under domestic law, whether it be American law or the law of another nation. This would further incentivize individuals to come forward with valuable information, leading to the arrest

and prosecution of some of the worst perpetrators of human rights abuses and war crimes.

I thank Representative FOXX for authoring this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4250.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

LIBYA STABILIZATION ACT

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1228) to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1228

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Libya Stabilization Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings; statement of policy.

TITLE I—IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES TO STABILITY IN LIBYA

Sec. 101. Report on activities of certain foreign governments and actors in Libya.

Sec. 102. Report of Russian activities and objectives in Libya.

Sec. 103. Determination of sanctionable activities of the Libyan National Army with respect to Syria.

TITLE II—ACTIONS TO ADDRESS FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LIBYA

Sec. 201. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons leading, directing, or supporting certain foreign government involvement in Libya.

Sec. 202. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons threatening the peace or stability of Libya.

Sec. 203. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons who are responsible for or complicit in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed in Libya.

Sec. 204. Sanctions described.

Sec. 205. Waiver.

Sec. 206. Implementation and regulatory authority.

Sec. 207. Exception relating to importation of goods.

Sec. 208. Definitions.

Sec. 209. Suspension of sanctions.

Sec. 210. Sunset.

TITLE III—ASSISTANCE FOR LIBYA

Sec. 301. Humanitarian relief for the people of Libya and international refugees and migrants in Libya.