

The Goldman Act specifically lists the increasingly escalating actions that Congress has in mind, from a demarche—or a protest through diplomatic channels—to a public condemnation to a delay or cancellation of one or more bilateral visits and even the withdrawal, limitation, or suspension of foreign assistance including non-humanitarian aid and including security assistance to the central government of a country. These are serious sanctions that must be seriously applied by a country that takes parental child abduction seriously.

We may also request extradition where appropriate.

If these measures sound pointed, it is because they are intended to focus the destination country on quick and accurate resolution of abduction and access cases.

The Goldman Act was written to cover countries that have signed the Hague Convention, such as Brazil; countries that have not signed the Convention, such as India; and countries that have a mix of open abduction cases from before and after signing the Hague Convention, such as Japan.

In 2013, India was the number three destination in the world for parents who abducted from the United States. Currently, there are 64 known open abduction and denial of access cases involving India. And yet the United States does not have any sort of resolution mechanism with India. Moms and dads left behind in the United States are forced to enter a labyrinthine foreign court system known for its incessant appeals and multi-year delays.

But now the Goldman Act applies. India will now face real penalties for any case that has been pending for more than one year, and will be “named and shamed” in the State Department’s report. As with the State Department’s annual trafficking report, there is morally suasive value in simply reporting what a country does, and some countries will I am sure respond to such moral pressure.

Thus we expect the State Department to apply these penalties zealously, and to work with India on establishing a bilateral agreement for the efficient and fair resolution of abduction and access cases. If the State Department faithfully applies the law as written, it will be in India’s interest to come to the negotiating table.

The same holds true for Japan, even though Japan recently signed the Hague Convention. Among such cases is that of Michael Elias, who has not seen his children, Jade and Michael Jr., since 2008. Michael served as a Marine who saw combat in Iraq. His wife, who worked in the Japanese consulate, used documents fraudulently obtained with the apparent complicity of Japanese consulate personnel to kidnap their children, then aged 4 and 2, in defiance of a court order, telling Michael on a phone call that there was nothing that he could do, as “my country will protect me.”

Her country will protect her, but what is our country doing to protect Michael and his children?

While the State Department has touted Japan’s accession to the Hague Convention as an accomplishment, Japan has said the Convention would only apply in post-ratification cases. As Ambassador Jacobs knows, I and several others predicted that unless a MOU or other bilateral agreement was concluded with Japan, American children and their left behind parents will be left behind in perpetuity. I ask to my friends at the State Department, what

then is to happen for parents already suffering from abductions prior to ratification? Would they be left-behind again—this time by their own government?

I know Ambassador Jacobs, who testified at last month’s hearing, as recently as February 2014 in her testimony before the Senate, stated that she would continue to make “progress with the Japanese government on resolving existing cases in the spirit of the Convention.”

The Goldman Act requires accountability for the Japanese government on the abduction cases open at the time Japan signed the Convention. Unless Japan resolves scores of American cases before the end of next month, nearly 100% of abduction cases in Japan will still be unresolved and Goldman Act penalties will apply.

The Goldman Act has given the State Department new and powerful tools to bring Japan, and other countries, to the resolution table. The goal is not to disrupt relations but to heal the painful rifts caused by international child abduction.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Equality for All Resolution—which declares that gay, lesbian, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Earlier this month, I watched as Indiana—my home state—enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Over the last few weeks, I’ve heard from businesses, religious organizations, community leaders, and countless concerned Americans.

It’s clear that the vast majority of Americans oppose this kind of discrimination.

Yet, in 2015, it is still legal in over 30 states to discriminate in the workplace, to refuse to sell or rent a home, or to turn someone away from your business—just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

As elected representatives, we have a responsibility to show that America is better than this. I would like to thank the 126 colleagues who join me today as original cosponsors of this resolution.

I encourage every Member of the House to join me in supporting the Equality for All resolution.

#### CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark an important milestone in the history of my home state of Maryland. On April 15, 2015, the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Bowie State

University will celebrate the school’s 150th anniversary at its annual Founders Day.

In the final months of the Civil War, the Baltimore Normal School began serving emancipated African-Americans by offering training for teachers. In 1910, it outgrew its facilities and moved to a 187-acre lot in Bowie, Maryland, and in 1914 it became the Maryland Normal and Industrial School at Bowie. Over the course of the twentieth century, the institution evolved into a four-year degree-granting college and eventually became a liberal arts college whose mission extended well beyond training educators. Renamed Bowie State College in 1963, it provided access to higher education for African American students, many of whom were barred from other institutions as a result of segregation.

In 1988, in recognition of the school’s important role in higher education for Marylanders and its expansion into graduate studies, it was elevated to University status and welcomed into the University System of Maryland. Since then, Bowie State University has been one of Maryland’s top institutions of higher education and has continued to rank as one of our nation’s leading historically black colleges and universities, preparing not only some of the brightest young minds in Maryland but also training a new generation of leaders for our nation’s African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to represent Bowie State University in Congress and to help secure federal grants that help the school expand its cutting-edge programs, including in the high-demand areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or “STEM” education. In recent years, Bowie State University has become a national leader in what many are calling “STEAM” education, which brings traditional “STEM” fields together with art and design in order to prepare students for careers in digital technologies. At the same time, Bowie State University has become a national center for training in cybersecurity, drawing on its proximity to Ft. Meade and defense institutions in the Greater Washington area. It continues to build on a groundbreaking \$27 million award from NASA and the National Science Foundation in 1995 that recognized Bowie State University as a national Model Institution for Excellence in STEM education.

Last year, I joined President Obama in Prince George’s County, Maryland, to highlight a \$7 million Youth Career Connect grant that was made possible through an innovative partnership between the County’s public schools, Lockheed Martin, and Bowie State University’s Maryland Center to grow the pipeline of students pursuing college degrees and STEM-related careers. The University is playing a major role in growing Maryland’s high-skill workforce for the twenty-first century, and I am excited for what the future holds.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Bowie State University’s proud history as it marks its sesquicentennial. I look forward to continuing to work closely with President Mickey Burnim and the Administration to ensure that Bowie State University can continue to carry out its mission of providing high-quality higher education and research that supports learning and careers in Maryland and across the United States.