

It tracks the Magnitsky Act, which Mr. MCGOVERN and I worked so hard to enact into law, so that we deny visas and also deny the ability to do business here to the people who are responsible for these egregious abuses.

And it requires a waiver provision that helps ensure that our actions protect the great people of Hong Kong and enhance the autonomy rather than inadvertently harming it. So it gives real flexibility to the President and to the State Department to make the right call.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have heard it said that the business of Hong Kong is business. It is that. But it is also clear to me, now, that the business of Hong Kong is freedom and democracy.

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from New Jersey in praising the staff members who helped create these bills, not only the one under consideration, but the other two that deal with Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), a great champion for human rights.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3289, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for his incredible leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation and for all of his work on human rights. I also thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL, as well as Chairman SHERMAN, for their leadership and their support of this bill and bringing it before the House today for consideration.

Behind me is a photograph taken on Monday night in Hong Kong's Chater Garden. It is estimated that 130,000 people took part in this rally calling on the United States Congress to pass the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act.

The Hong Kong people need international support, and I am proud that the United States House of Representatives is standing in solidarity with Hong Kong in their struggle.

While the protests were sparked by the extradition bill, the heart of the discontent is that many of Hong Kong's political leaders do not represent the people. Instead, Hong Kong's leaders are beholden to the Chinese Government. Millions of Hong Kongers would not have to protest in the streets if they could freely choose their political leaders.

Since the 2014 umbrella movement protests, the "one country, two systems" framework has been rapidly eroding as free expression has been stifled and the space for democratic participation has been restricted. We have seen the prosecution and sentencing of prodemocracy leaders, the disqualification and removal of prodemocracy legislators, the abduction and arbitrary detention of booksellers, and the expelling of a Financial Times journalist.

Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy is enshrined in the legally binding 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and Hong Kong's Basic Law. The joint declaration is an international treaty, signed by the Chinese Government, and guarantees the protection of rights and a separate economic system for mainland China.

I believe it is time for the United States to reconsider its policies toward Hong Kong.

U.S.-Hong Kong relations are governed by the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 that commits the United States to treating Hong Kong as a separate customs territory from the rest of China as long as Hong Kong remains sufficiently autonomous. The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act would require the Secretary of State to certify, on an annual basis, whether Hong Kong continues to warrant special treatment different from mainland China under U.S. law.

It is time we put the Chinese Government on annual notice that further erosion of autonomy or a crackdown will cause the city, which serves as an important financial haven for wealthy Chinese elites, to lose its special economic, financial, and trade arrangement with the United States.

Further, the legislation authorizes sanctions against individuals who violate human rights and states that Hong Kong visa applicants should not be denied entry to the United States based on politically motivated arrests based on their protest activities.

To be clear, we stand together with the people of Hong Kong and, indeed, all the people of China when we express our concerns about the human rights violations of the Hong Kong and Chinese Governments.

Over the years, Hong Kong has prospered and become the financial center of Asia because of its strong commitment to the rule of law, good governance, human rights, and open economic system. We must use our leverage to help the people of Hong Kong in their struggle to secure a democratic future that protects Hong Kong's autonomy and way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on this side, so I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SMITH for introducing this legislation.

Thirty years since Tiananmen Square and Chinese authorities are still turning to violence and intimidation to crush dissent and attack basic freedoms. With this important legislation, we send a clear signal that the United States stands with the people of Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members will join me in supporting the passage of

this legislation, and 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. SHERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3289, 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.

PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON TEARGAS EXPORTS AND CROWD CONTROL TECHNOLOGY TO HONG KONG ACT

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4270) to prohibit commercial exports of certain nonlethal crowd control items and defense articles and services to the Hong Kong Disciplined Services, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4270

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 "Placing Restrictions on Teargas Exports and Crowd Control Technology to Hong Kong Act" or the "PROTECT Hong Kong Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, along with human rights organizations, has called for an investigation of the use of crowd control tactics used in Hong Kong which fall short of international standards, including the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms for Law Enforcement Officials.

(2) United States companies have reportedly provided the Hong Kong Police Force with munitions and non-lethal crowd control equipment that were reportedly used by the police.

(3) Hong Kong citizens and the international community have called for changes to the Hong Kong Police's crowd control tactics and these requests have gone unheeded by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to restrict the export of security assistance and crime control and detection instruments and equipment to any government that engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, consistent with the requirements of section 502B(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(a)); and

(2) to use export controls on crime control and detection instruments and equipment to deter the development of a consistent pattern of human rights abuses, distance the United States from such abuses, and avoid contributing to civil disorder in a country or region, in accordance with section 742.7(b) of part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL EXPORT OF COVERED DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES AND COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS TO THE HONG KONG POLICE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, except as provided in subsection (b), the President shall prohibit the issuance of licenses to export covered defense articles and services and covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police.

(b) **WAIVER.**—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to the issuance of a license with respect to which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees, not fewer than 30 days before the date of such issuance, a written certification that the exports to be covered by such license are important to the national interests and foreign policy goals of the United States, including a description of the manner in which such exports will promote such interests and goals.

(c) **TERMINATION.**—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Hong Kong Police have not engaged in gross violations of human rights during the 1-year period ending on the date of such certification; and

(2) there has been an independent examination of human rights concerns related to the crowd control tactics of the Hong Kong Police and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has adequately addressed those concerns.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON COVERED DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES AND COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS EXPORTED TO THE HONG KONG POLICE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that lists and provides a description of all covered defense articles and services and covered munitions items exported to the Hong Kong Police during the five-year period ending on such date of enactment.

(b) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) **COVERED DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES.**—The term “covered defense articles and services” means defense articles and defense services designated by the President under section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)).

(3) **COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS.**—The term “covered munitions items” means—

(A) items controlled under section 742.7 of part 742 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to crime control and detection instruments and equipment and related technology and software); and

(B) items listed under the “600 series” of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) **HONG KONG.**—The term “Hong Kong” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5702).

(5) **HONG KONG POLICE.**—The term “Hong Kong Police” means—

(A) the Hong Kong Police Force; and

(B) the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**, Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. **SHERMAN**) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. **SMITH**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **SHERMAN**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4270.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. **SHERMAN**. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. **PELOSI**), Speaker of the House, a woman who has dedicated decades of her life to the fight for human rights.

Ms. **PELOSI**. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his support of democracy and democratic freedom in Hong Kong.

I want to salute my colleague, Representative **SMITH** of New Jersey, with whom I have worked for decades on this subject, whether it is for religious freedom or freedom of expression in China.

I thank Mr. **MCGOVERN** for his important leadership as chair of the China Commission and as chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Right now, we are on the **PROTECT Hong Kong Act**, as amended, by Mr. **MCGOVERN**, and I rise in support of that legislation and, indeed, the bills that are on the floor to support democratic freedom in Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, for 4 months, the young people of Hong Kong have sent a stirring message to the world that the dreams of freedom, justice, and democracy can never be extinguished by injustice and intimidation. The extraordinary outpouring of courage from the people of Hong Kong stands in stark contrast to a cowardly government that refuses to respect the rule of law or live up to the “one country, two systems” framework, which was guaranteed more than two decades ago.

In 1984, before the United Kingdom transferred Hong Kong to China, the Chinese Government promised a high degree of autonomy for the territory in the Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong, providing for an independent executive, legislature, and ju-

diciary; ensuring the freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion; prohibiting the central government, the Chinese Government in Beijing, from interfering in the affairs that Hong Kong administers on its own according to the Basic Law; and pledging a path to universal suffrage.

In 1997—that is when we were here doing this—when the handover occurred, America was hopeful that the people of Hong Kong would achieve this high degree of autonomy that they were promised, and this was a promise that was participated in by the U.K. Government. Today, we must sadly conclude that China has broken that promise.

For years, the people of Hong Kong have faced a barrage of unjust and harsh restrictions on their freedoms, and those who have stood up for their rights have been met with a cruel crackdown.

In Congress, Democrats and Republicans, in the House and in the Senate, stand united with the people of Hong Kong. If America does not speak out for human rights in China because of commercial interests, then we lose all moral authority to speak out for human rights anywhere in the world.

Since Tiananmen Square 30 years ago, many of us, in a bipartisan way, have been fighting this fight, and we have seen that commercial interests always win. It is always about the money.

I lost my innocence on human rights in America and China all those years ago when I saw that, while we talked a good talk, when it came right down to it, it was always about the money.

Again, to those who want to take the repressive government’s side in this discussion, I say to you: What does it profit a person if he gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his soul?

We do not want to lose the soul of our country for commercial interests, whatever those commercial interests may be.

It is interesting to hear people say we have to know both sides of the story. Do you want to hear both sides?

One side is a very repressive regime that is crushing democratic freedoms in Hong Kong at the same time that they have tried to destroy the culture, the language, and the religion, all at the same time as they incarcerate in reeducation camps more than 1 million—it could be 3 million—Uyghur Muslims in China, or they repress religious freedom there. The list goes on and on.

And the other side: young people speaking out for freedoms, democratic freedoms, in Hong Kong. They are so impressive.

Mr. **SMITH** and I have worked, as Mr. **MCGOVERN** has, with some three generations, starting after Tiananmen Square and tanks rolling over young people who spoke out for democratic freedoms in China; the next generation, a couple, 15 years later; and now this generation of young people, so impressive are they that even the more senior

freedom fighters in Hong Kong are impressed by their courage and their stick-to-itiveness.

Today, the House is proud to pass the bicameral and bipartisan Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act to reaffirm America's commitment to democracy. And that doesn't mean a democracy like this. It means democratic freedoms, human rights, and the rule of law in the face of Beijing's crackdown.

□ 1615

And Beijing thinks that they can rule because of money. It always comes down to that. I thank Chairman MCGOVERN and Congressman SMITH for their work to ensure an honest accounting of the situation in Hong Kong, and to ensure accountability for those responsible for the crackdown.

We are grateful to Chairman MCGOVERN for his leadership on this PROTECT Hong Kong Act which suspends sales of crowd control technology and other equipment to the Hong Kong Police Force, as Mr. SHERMAN pointed out earlier. I thank Mr. SHERMAN for his work on this and thank him for his resolution calling for the Hong Kong Government to address protestors' demands and condemning police brutality, in addition to China's efforts to falsely accuse U.S. diplomats of fueling unrest.

Last week, Martin Lee, the grandfather of Hong Kong democracy—we started working with him decades ago—said: "We fear Hong Kong will become just another Chinese city." That means one without any of the freedoms that they were guaranteed. The future of Hong Kong, the future of autonomy, freedom, and justice for millions is at stake.

America must stand with Hong Kong. It is very interesting that in the first weeks of the demonstration, the first months of the demonstration, 2 million people, mostly young people, were in the streets. And people were saying: Oh, my heavens, 2 million people turning out. And you remember that 2 million is 25 percent of the population of Hong Kong which is 8 million people. It is 25 percent of the population that was in the streets. And the beat goes on.

Hopefully, they will hear from this Congress our support for their human rights, and that we will not sell our souls for money at the expense of our values.

I also want to thank the distinguished chairman of the committee, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, for his leadership on all of this over time. I urge an "aye" vote on all of the above to join in bipartisan, bicameral support for the people of Hong Kong.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the author of this important bill, a stalwart supporter of human rights.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California for his leadership.

I rise in support of H.R. 4270, the Placing Restrictions On Teargas Exports and Crowd Control Technology to Hong Kong Act, the PROTECT Hong Kong Act.

I am proud to have introduced this bipartisan legislation, along with my colleagues CHRIS SMITH and RO KHANNA, that responds to the excessive and unnecessary use of force by the Hong Kong police, targeting those engaged in peaceful protest. I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for bringing this bill so quickly before the House for consideration.

The PROTECT Hong Kong Act prohibits U.S. exports of defense articles, munitions, and police equipment to Hong Kong. Specifically, it stops U.S. exports of teargas, pepper spray, grenades, rubber bullets, guns, semiautomatic rifles, and such defense articles and munitions to the police.

Let's be clear about what is happening in Hong Kong right now. Millions of people from all walks of life, including: young people, students, women, seniors, entrepreneurs, teachers, civil servants, and workers are standing up to the most powerful, authoritarian government in the world. Protesters have inspired the world as they risk their lives, their health, their jobs, and their education to fight for the future of Hong Kong. They are savvy and strategic. They are using technology to mobilize, stay anonymous, and organize. They are capturing and extinguishing teargas containers.

They have taken down, taken apart, and shown the world increasing surveillance cameras that monitor everyday Hong Kongers. They are using art, music, laser pointers, and the projection of messages on building to highlight their struggle.

They organized a human chain of 200,000 people spanning 37 miles. Tenants in Hong Kong's residential buildings organize the shouting of slogans from their windows every night with calls and responses echoing throughout the city. The people of Hong Kong have made their voices loud and clear.

But instead of listening to them, the Chinese and Hong Kong Governments have mishandled the situation at every turn. The world has now seen eyewitness evidence compiled by journalists and the media showing that police have used excessive force and used equipment in violation of manufacturer guidelines and international standards.

We have seen the police firing rubber bullets and bean bag rounds at peaceful protesters at close range. We have seen them launching teargas canisters, from high buildings and directly at individuals, into crowded and enclosed areas.

We have seen them failing to give demonstrators visible and audible warning before firing, and we have seen them use batons to beat and subdue demonstrators and disperse journalists.

In fact, the situation has been so bad that in June, the British Government

suspended export licenses for the sale of teargas and crowd control equipment until concerns about human rights abuses are addressed.

On August 13, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights called for an investigation of the use of crowd control tactics in Hong Kong.

Enough is enough. It is time for American companies to stop selling weapons that are being used to suppress peaceful protests. Instead of heeding international calls to stop the crackdown, the Hong Kong Government continues to make matters worse.

On October 1 alone, 269 arrests of protesters, spanning the ages of 12 to 71 were made. Two teenage protesters had been shot with live ammunition, and the uptick of violence against journalists has further served to inflame public anger against the government and the police.

Instead of establishing an independent commission of inquiry on police conduct to deescalate the situation, the Hong Kong Government has formally invoked the Emergency Regulations Ordinance to ban the use of masks during public assemblies. This is an impractical and draconian step to move the city closer to martial law.

The Hong Kong Government should repeal this regulation and refrain from bypassing oversight and scrutiny by the legislative council in making ad hoc regulations. An intensified crackdown will only escalate and promote violence, and further tarnish the reputation of Hong Kong and its police force.

At a minimum, it is beyond time for Congress to send a clear message that the United States supports the people of Hong Kong, and that we will no longer provide assistance to crack down on pro-democracy protesters. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4270, the PROTECT Hong Kong Act.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me say, I appreciate and respect the eloquent remarks of the Speaker just a few moments ago. We are united on Hong Kong. I think that is very clear, and we have been working together, along with a number of other Members, including some former Members, like Frank Wolf from Virginia, who are united in believing that freedom, and democracy, and respect for human rights is everybody's business, and everybody is entitled to it. These are God-given rights. So, again, I want to thank the Speaker for her wonderful remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4270, the PROTECT Hong Kong Act, sponsored by Chairman JIM MCGOVERN, and I am very proud to be a cosponsor on it. The PROTECT Hong Kong Act mandates export restrictions on defense articles and munitions to the Hong Kong police.

As the largest protest movement Hong Kong has ever seen continues into its fifth month, major concerns have arisen about the Hong Kong police's independence and professionalism. The people of Hong Kong are rightfully furious about well-documented cases of excessive force, brutal tactics, and the tolerance of violence against protesters and journalists by the government.

The Hong Kong police's actions are now a cause in and of themselves of protest. There has been widespread police misuse of crowd control equipment and less lethal weaponry, including incidents that have seriously injured journalists. Police have used teargas, rubber bullets, water cannons, sponge grenades, pepper spray, and batons against demonstrators, some of which, indeed, are American-made equipment. In recent weeks two protesters have been shot with live rounds.

Meanwhile, while we discuss a move to ban the sale of such offensive equipment, the Hong Kong Government, via executive fiat, has simultaneously moved to ban the use by demonstrators of defensive equipment used to protect themselves against police attacks; namely, gas masks and face masks.

The PROTECT Hong Kong Act will prohibit the issuing of licenses for the export of munitions and crowd control equipment to the Hong Kong police. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and other relevant Federal agencies, will also be required to issue a report on what has been sold to the Hong Kong police over the past several years.

These prohibitions will remain in effect until these incidents are independently examined and the Hong Kong police have demonstrated truly professional conduct.

In sum, the U.S. should not be complicit in any way, shape, or form in violence being used to squash the legitimate demands guaranteed to the Hong Kong people by international treaty. That is unacceptable, and it is contrary to U.S. interests, and it is contrary to U.S. law.

I strongly support unanimous support for this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the chair of the full Foreign Affairs Committee, a stalwart supporter of human rights.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding to me. He is a valued member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Let me start by thanking Mr. MCGOVERN for his hard work on this legislation.

The relationship between the United States and Hong Kong is rooted in our shared values. Among them are a fierce belief in the freedom of speech, and the right to assemble. That is why the American people are so troubled by the images coming out of Hong Kong lately.

Hundreds of thousands of protesters who have taken to the streets have

been met with increasing violence by the Hong Kong Police Force. These pro-democracy activists faced teargas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets by the police force sworn to supposedly protect them.

I remember when China took over Hong Kong from the U.K. and said that they would adhere to a system of two systems in China, and that the people of Hong Kong would have freedom like they had before to speak their mind. And here it is, probably about 20 years later, and that is already being eroded, taken away, and the people of Hong Kong see that they were promised something which isn't being brought forth from the Beijing regime.

Mr. MCGOVERN's measure would ensure that American companies are not contributing equipment for the Hong Kong police to use against protesters. This bill also calls on the police to take the steps needed to address those issues from within. When there are instances of police brutality, there must be prompt, independent investigations and proper accountability.

The PROTECT Hong Kong Act shows the people of Hong Kong that the United States stands with them in their fight for their freedoms. It makes sure that American companies are not facilitating violence against brave Democratic protesters.

It is a shame that it has come to this, but it is really uplifting to watch people possess enormous courage in the wake of having their lives threatened. In the wake of having their society destroyed, they stood up and they are standing up to the Beijing regime and to the people who would try to strip them of their basic freedoms.

I think that we all, no matter where we are on this planet, have to admire the brave people of Hong Kong. We had the good fortune of meeting a number of the protesters when Speaker PELOSI called a press conference a few weeks ago, and we talked about this bill. It was really heartening to be able to speak to these young people one-on-one. These are young people who have shown just enormous amounts of courage. And they should know that the United States will always support them, will continue to support them, and we won't stop until the people of Hong Kong have their democracy and the freedom they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4270.

□ 1630

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The people of Hong Kong have the right to peaceably assemble without fear of violence. They need to know that their friends in the United States are not providing tools of the violent repression being used against them.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4270, and I urge all Members of the House to do likewise. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4270, the "PROTECT Hong Kong Act."

H.R. 4270 calls for the President to prohibit the issuance of export licenses for nonlethal crowd control items and defense articles to the Hong Kong police.

This prohibition will be terminated once the Hong Kong police have stopped engaging in a pattern of gross human rights abuses, and there has been an independent investigation conducted on policy brutality.

During the 2019 anti-extradition bill and pro-democracy protests, the Hong Kong Police Force used non-lethal crowd control articles such as water cannon trucks, tear gas, rubber bullets, sponge grenades, beanbag rounds, batons, pepper spray, pepper balls, and projectile launchers.

Hong Kong citizens and the international community have called for changes to the Hong Kong Police's crowd control tactics and these requests have gone unheeded by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government.

I applaud the efforts and sacrifices pro-democracy activists have made and they ought to know that the United States fully supports their desire for freedom and peace, and we strongly condemn the violent and oppressive tactics of the Hong Kong police.

When enacted, H.R. 4270 will prohibit the issuance of licenses to export covered defense articles and services and covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Disciplined Services.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security I find it important to increase bilateral relations with allies and abroad to help eliminate the injustices of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4270 to confront the pattern of gross human rights abuses which pose a strong threat to the democratic values we work to protect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4270, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to prohibit commercial exports of certain nonlethal crowd control items and defense articles and services to the Hong Kong Police, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.