

This very bill that we have been working on for a long time passed unanimously in this House of Representatives 4 years ago in December. Why didn't it become law? Because, in the Senate's rules, one Senator was able to block the legislation from even being voted on in the Senate. So here we are again, 4 years later, trying to get this legislation passed.

My friend mentioned USAID and their mission statement. Nothing in the definition of "assistance" in this bill precludes USAID from reporting on data fields that it currently reports on for the Green Book and for OECD. So, if they are already making reports, this legislation, to be very clear, does not prohibit them from also making those other reports, but they will comply with the legislation in this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a valued member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3766, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act.

I want to begin by recognizing my colleagues, the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for all of the work that they have done to get this important bill to the floor and to thank them for working, as they always do, in a bipartisan way on behalf of the members of our committee.

I also thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership on this bill and for their creating an environment on the Foreign Affairs Committee, where we work together in a bipartisan way, and this legislation is a product of that work.

Madam Speaker, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act will enhance the transparency and effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance by requiring a framework for monitoring and evaluating foreign development and economic programs and for publicly disclosing the data and results.

The United States carries out a wide variety of assistance programs overseas, and it is important that there is a clearly articulated strategy and monitoring apparatus for our assistance. It is just as important that the American people have access to the information about what activities their tax dollars are funding. This is critical to sustaining public understanding and support for our diplomatic work and our foreign assistance.

I also want to take a moment to commend the Obama administration for making much of this information publicly available online on their Foreign Assistance Dashboard.

I hope that my colleagues support this legislation so that we can continue

to increase efficiency and accountability in our foreign assistance programs. The American people deserve this, and it will make our foreign assistance better understood and more impactful. I urge my colleagues to support this excellent legislation.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as I have no further requests for time, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, let me, again, thank Chairman ROYCE for bringing this bill forward and thank Representatives POE and CONNOLLY for their hard work.

Our foreign assistance helps improve the lives of countless people around the world, and it helps advance American interests and American values. Foreign assistance deserves the continued support of Congress. At the same time, we need to know that our foreign assistance dollars are being put to the best use possible, that we are getting the biggest bang for our buck. The American people expect no less when it comes to their tax dollars, and they are right.

So let's stand up for foreign assistance and for transparency and accountability by passing this bill. I urge a "yes" vote.

I congratulate Judge POE and Mr. CONNOLLY.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and, of course, my friend, Mr. CONNOLLY from Virginia, for their support on this bill.

Madam Speaker, the Foreign Affairs Committee is probably more bipartisan than any committee in the House of Representatives. Almost everything that we do and the legislation we bring to the floor, the vast majority of Members support. Sometimes every Member supports the legislation. This is another one of those pieces of legislation that is good for the country and is really good for the whole world.

Transparency and evaluation is what this bill is about. As I started out in my comments, many Americans don't know what we do with their money. Let me just give a few examples:

Because of American aid, there are now millions of girls in other parts of the world who are getting an education. Because of Americans and their interest, half of the AIDS epidemic in Africa has been cut. It has been cut in half, the epidemic of AIDS in Africa. The life expectancy of people in Afghanistan, because of American aid, has grown 20 years. When it comes to the youth, many children throughout the world are dying because they have dirty water. It is not clean. Because of USAID and their help, that number has been cut in half. The children are now living because they are getting clean water.

Those are just a few things that are being done. We should be proud of those accomplishments.

We also want to make sure that those accomplishments and what we are doing with American money is transparent. We want to continue to evaluate it to see if it is working. If it is working, let's continue it, and if it is not working, then let's do something else.

I do want to thank those involved for their support, especially the chairman and the ranking member.

H.R. 3766 will give us the tools to make foreign aid programs efficient and effective, two words that sometimes aren't used with "government." I strongly support this legislation.

And that is just the way it is.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3766, 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.

LASALLE LANCERS DID IT AGAIN

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, they did it again.

The LaSalle Lancers won the Ohio Division II State football championship for the second year in a row, and they won it convincingly, as they did last year, 42-0, this time over Massillon Perry.

One reason LaSalle was ready to compete and prevail for the State championship was they were challenged throughout the season by other great Cincinnati high school football programs. There is a saying, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Having to play Cincinnati powerhouse teams like Colerain, Elder, St. X, and Moeller didn't kill LaSalle, but it certainly made them stronger.

I am proud to say that LaSalle has been an important part of my life. I got my start in politics there by getting elected to the student council, and I played football, starting on the defensive line. Ten years later, my younger brother, Dave, also played defensive back for LaSalle. Of course, there is another saying, the older I get, the better I was.

So congratulations to LaSalle's players, coaches, students, teachers, parents, and supporters. Well done.

Lancers, roll deep. Congratulations.

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IMPORTANCE OF ABUNDANT ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) is recognized for