

and effectively. The administration has taken the groundbreaking measures to track and publicize the effectiveness of our foreign assistance programs. This bill will make those efforts stronger. It will help us and all the American people know exactly what our foreign assistance investments are paying for and that they are paying dividends in the long run.

I want to again stress the partnership because it is a fair question to say: Well, we have pressing needs here at home. Why are we sending money abroad?

We look at the instability of the world. We see terrorism. We see what is happening. The United States has a stake in having partners all around the world. The United States has a stake in making conditions better for people all around the world so that radicalism isn't appealing. People can understand that what we have to offer is just so much better.

This partnership is important. This bill sustains that partnership, so I am glad to support the bill. I urge a "yes" vote.

I thank Chairman ROYCE.

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

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

Smart investments and development can help support growth of healthier, more stable societies, open markets that can generate consumers of U.S. goods. It can create opportunities for people there and for U.S. businesses to grow. But unwise investments can have the exact opposite effect.

This bill will give us the tools we need to make our foreign aid programs more smart and wise, and I strongly support this bill. I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senate Amendment to the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (H.R. 3766).

I want to thank my friend, Judge TED POE of Texas, for working with me to introduce and advance this bill.

I also want to thank Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for previously marking up this measure in Committee and bringing it to the Floor today.

And finally, I want to thank our colleagues in the Senate, including Senators CARDIN, RUBIO, and LEAHY for working with us to strengthen the bill and shepherd it through the Senate.

The Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act is a project that I have worked on with Judge POE for several years now, and in December 2015 this bill passed in the House by voice vote.

The bill directs the President to establish monitoring and evaluation or M&E guidelines for the federal agencies charged with implementing foreign assistance programs abroad.

The guidelines will require M&E plans as part of the project development process, and agencies will be encouraged to incorporate the findings of project evaluations and impact studies into subsequent foreign assistance programs.

This feedback loop will include measurable goals, performance metrics, and a clearing house for lessons learned on U.S.-led aid projects.

Additionally, the legislation requires that the documents and reports created under this M&E regime be made available to the public on [foreignassistance.gov](http://foreignassistance.gov).

This administration has developed an encouraging record on foreign aid transparency. The Foreign Assistance Dashboard created in 2010 demonstrated a promising inclination towards disclosure that we should hope to enshrine in law.

This measure will strengthen and codify those transparency best practices to ensure that they exist as agency policy under future Administrations that might not be as accommodating of the aid community's demand for this information.

Aid programs that are held accountable for their performance and results can be made more effective, and their impact on communities and countries abroad can be more easily demonstrated.

Perhaps with more information, we can dispel the commonly held belief that 26 percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign aid when the actual amount is less than 1 percent.

I am hopeful that this bill will help foreign assistance operations become more focused and efficacious.

It is time to apply a data driven approach to constructing an assistance operation that has the support of Congress and a well-informed public.

We cannot ignore the increasingly important role diplomacy and development play in meeting our most pressing security challenges and demonstrating American leadership in global affairs.

It is an act of political malpractice that this vital part of the federal budget is so misunderstood and that the direct link between our national security and stability and prosperity abroad is so underappreciated.

I urge my colleagues to join the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, the Professional Services Council, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and several other well-regarded members of the foreign assistance community in supporting this bipartisan legislation and foster greater understanding of our vital investments abroad.

I would like to close by thanking, once again, Judge POE for his leadership on the issue of foreign aid effectiveness.

I think his advocacy is motivated by a shared belief that our foreign assistance dollars have the potential to create a path to prosperity in the most poverty stricken areas of the world, and nurture the promise of democracy in the face of even the most repressive authoritarian regimes.

I look forward to working with Judge POE to ensure that those common goals are advanced by the implementation of this legislation.

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 concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 3766.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### BRAGGING ON SIMONE MANUEL

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress love to brag. Texans like me brag the most.

Today, I am going to brag about a young lady from my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. She is a Bulldog from Austin High School. Her name is Simone Manuel. If you don't know that name today, you will after this summer's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Simone swims fast, really fast, water-on-fire fast. In fact, she recently swam so fast she is swimming in three events at the Olympics: the 50-meter freestyle, the 100-meter freestyle, and the 4-by-100-meter freestyle relay.

Texas women love precious metal. They are okay with bronze, they like silver, and they love gold.

Good luck, Simone. Bring home some precious metal to Sugar Land, Texas. Sugar Land loves you.

#### ROULETTE TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Roulette Township, Potter County.

The township was founded on January 29, 1816, in honor of John Sigmund Roulet. Roulet was an associate of John Keating, one of the original settlers of Potter County. Today, the community's name is spelled a bit differently due to an early error by the Post Office Department.

Today, the township is home to more than 1,300 people. Later this week, members of the community will kick off a 2-day celebration, starting on Friday, in honor of the township's bicentennial and its history.

The celebration will start with a 5K walk for the fight against domestic violence, and it will continue with an ice cream social and bingo. On Saturday, a prayer service is planned, followed by a barbecue, with a parade planned for Saturday afternoon. A hymn sing is planned for Sunday, along with a "Walk Down Memory Lane," with signs placed highlighting the long history of Roulette Township.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see the residents of Roulette Township honoring their history with this week's celebration, making sure that the region's past is not forgotten.