



1. [H. Res. 780 – Urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016](#)
2. [H. R. 5332 – Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016, as amended](#)
3. [H.R. 5732 – Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, as amended](#)
4. [H.R. 6297 – The Iran Sanctions Act Extension Act](#)

H. Res. 780 — Urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016 (Rep. Smith, R-NJ)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 15, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Res. 780](#) would urge the United States to impose sanctions on government officials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who impede progress toward a democratic transition through credible elections that respect the will of the Congolese.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 780 would urge:

(1) the United States to impose sanctions on government officials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who impede progress toward a democratic transition through credible elections that respect the will of the Congolese;

(2) that sanctions should target core figures in the government of President [Kabila](#) for visa denials and for asset freezes because of actions that “undermine democratic processes or institutions;

(3) that the president should lift sanctions only when the president determines that President Kabila has unequivocally and publicly declared that, in accordance with the constitution, he will not remain in power once his term ends on December 19, 2016, has made verifiable progress on the ground towards holding timely free and fair national elections in accordance with the constitution, and has demonstrably opened the necessary political space for the opposition and civil society; or the DRC has held a free and fair presidential election as provided by the constitution and a new president has been sworn in; as well as other conditions.

According to the findings of the resolution, President Kabila’s second term will end December 19, 2016, after which his government can no longer be considered the constitutionally legitimate representative of the Congolese people. However President Kabila has yet to declare unequivocally and publicly that he will step down at the end of his term, as required by the constitution, causing growing political tension, unrest and violence across the country.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 780 was introduced on June 13, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 14, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (as amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority statement is available.

H.R. 5332— Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Noem, R-SD)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 15, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5332](#) would require the president to develop a strategy to promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, management, and resolution, reinforced through diplomatic efforts and programs and provide training to Department of Defense, and Department of State personnel to include the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to accomplish such goals.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the bill would cost \$15 million over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply because enacting H.R. 5332 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that the bill would dedicate scarce defense and foreign policy resources to achieving a preferred gender-based result.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5332 would declare a sense of Congress that: (1) the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes helps to promote more inclusive and democratic societies and is critical to the long-term stability of countries and regions; (2) the political participation and leadership of women in fragile environments, particularly during democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining lasting democratic institutions; and (3) the United States should be a global leader in promoting the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.

The bill would further declare that it shall be the policy of the United States to promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced through diplomatic efforts and programs.

The bill would require the president to submit a strategy to Congress a single government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed description of how the United States intends to fulfill certain outlined policy objectives. The strategy would: (1) support and be aligned with plans developed by other countries to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes, conflict prevention, peace building, transitional processes, and decision-making institutions; and (2) include specific and measurable goals to ensure the accountability and effectiveness of all policies and initiatives. Within each relevant bureau of the Department of State, the Secretary of State would be required to task the current Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for the implementation of the strategy.

The bill would declare that the president should promote the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, in coordination and consultation with international partners, including multilateral organizations, stakeholders, and other relevant international organizations, particularly in situations in which the direct engagement of the United States is not appropriate or advisable.

The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the USAID Administrator would be required to ensure that all appropriate personnel (including special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or Foreign Service, and contractors) responsible for countries or regions considered to be at risk of violent conflict obtain training to include a focus on women and ensuring meaningful participation by women. The training would include: (1) conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution; (2) protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons; (3) international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The Secretary of Defense would be required to ensure that relevant personnel receive training in: (1) conflict prevention, peace processes, mitigation, resolution, and security initiatives that specifically addresses the importance of meaningful participation by women; (2) gender considerations and meaningful participation by women; and (3) effective strategies and best practices for ensuring meaningful participation by women.

The Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator would be directed to establish guidelines for overseas United States personnel to consult with stakeholders regarding U.S. efforts to: (1) prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict; and (2) enhance the success of mediation and negotiation processes by ensuring the meaningful participation of women.

The Secretary of State would be encouraged to work with international, regional, national, and local organizations to increase the meaningful participation of women in international peacekeeping operations, and should promote training that provides international peacekeeping personnel with the substantive knowledge and skills needed to ensure effective physical security and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peace building.

A press release from the bill's sponsor can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5332 was introduced on May 25, 2016 and was referred to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and on Armed Services. On June 16, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the nature of a substitute (amended) by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8." No enumerating clause was listed.

H.R. 5732 — Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, as amended (Rep. Engel, D-NY)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 15, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5732](#) would impose sanctions on people and entities responsible for the security and humanitarian crisis in Syria. The bill would further authorize the Department of State to assist entities that are investigating war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria, and would require reports to the Congress on ongoing assistance programs for the Syrian people, and the feasibility of establishing a no-fly zone over Syria.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 5732 would cost \$3 million over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5732 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5732 would impose specified sanctions against the Central Bank of Syria. The president would be required to impose sanctions on individuals who knowingly provided support to the Government of Syria and the Central Bank of Syria. The bill would impose sanctions on any individual who knowingly sold or provided to Syria significant goods, services, , or petroleum products that have a fair market value of \$500,000 or more, or \$2,000,000 or more during a 12-month period, in areas controlled by the Government of Syria. The bill would further sanction any individual who sold or provided good and services to a foreign person operating in the shipping transportation, or telecommunications sectors in areas controlled by the Government of Syria.

An alien who subject to sanctions under this act would be inadmissible to the United States; and ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States. Sanctions would not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations.

The bill would further direct the president to impose sanctions on a foreign person that has knowingly exported, transferred, or provided significant financial, material, or technological support to the Government of Syria to: (1) acquire or develop chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons or related technologies; (2) acquire or develop ballistic or cruise missile capabilities; (3) acquire or develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons; (4) acquire defense articles, defense services, or defense information; or (5) acquire items designated by the president for purposes of the [United States Munitions List](#).

The bill would further impose sanctions on certain persons who are responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses committed against citizens of Syria or their families to include the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure to include schools, hospitals, and markets; and hindering the prompt and safe access for all actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities, including across conflict lines and borders.

H.R. 5732 would amend section 703(b)(2)(C) of the [Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012](#) to further impose sanctions on those who facilitate the transfer of goods or technology that may be used by the Syrian government to commit human rights abuses against the people of Syria. The bill would additionally impose sanctions against those who hinder the prompt and safe access for the United Nations, its specialized agencies and implementing partners, engaged in humanitarian relief activities in Syria, including across conflict lines and borders.

H.R. 5732 would require several reports to Congress: (1) on the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing U.S. assistance programs in Syria and to the Syrian people; (2) on certain persons who are responsible for or complicit in certain human rights violations in Syria, including President Bashar al Assad and his regime; (3) including an assessment of the potential effectiveness of and requirements for the establishment of safe zones or a no-fly zone in Syria; and (4) on U.S. assistance to support entities taking actions relating to the gathering of evidence for investigations into war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria since March 2011.

The bill would allow the president to suspend sanctions for up to 240 days in 120 increments if he determines that either: (1) international peace negotiations have concluded in an agreement; or (2) negotiations have not concluded in an agreement, but the government of Syria has ended military attacks against the Syrian people and is no longer grossly violating human rights in Syria.

The bill would provide for a human rights and democracy waiver under specified conditions, allowing the President to waive on a case-by-case basis, for 120 days, and renewable for an additional 120 days, the application of sanctions if the president submits to a written determination that the waiver is necessary for humanitarian assistance purposes or for the support for democracy promotion to the Syrian people.

H.R. 5732 would provide a sense of Congress that a transitional government in Syria is a government that is taking verifiable steps to release all political prisoners and provided full access to Syrian prisons for investigations by appropriate international human rights organizations; and to remove former senior Syrian government officials who are complicit in the conception, implementation, or cover up of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or human rights abuses from government positions; and is in the process of organizing free and fair elections for a new government, as well as other steps relating to human rights and democratic governance.

H.R. 5732 would express a sense of Congress that: (1) Bashar al-Assad's murderous actions against the people of Syria have caused the deaths of more than 400,000 civilians, led to the destruction of more than 50 percent of Syria's critical infrastructure, and forced the displacement of more than 14,000,000 people, precipitating the worst humanitarian crisis in more than 60 years; (2) international actions to date have been insufficient in protecting vulnerable populations from being attacked by uniformed and irregular forces, including Hezbollah, associated with the Assad regime, on land and from the air, through the use of barrel bombs, chemical weapons, mass starvation campaigns, industrial-scale torture and execution of political dissidents, sniper attacks on pregnant women, and the deliberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, residential areas, and community gathering places, including markets; (3) Assad's use of chemical weapons, including chlorine, against the Syrian people violates the Chemical Weapons Convention; and (4) Assad's continued claim of leadership and actions in Syria are a rallying point for the extremist ideology of the Islamic State, Jabhat al-Nusra (now Jabhat Fateh al-Sham), and other terrorist organizations.

The bill would express a statement of policy that that all diplomatic and coercive economic means should be utilized to compel the government of Bashir al-Assad to immediately halt the wholesale slaughter of the

Syrian people and actively work towards transition to a democratic government in Syria, existing in peace and security with its neighbors.

No additional funds would be authorized to carry out H.R. 5732's requirements, which would be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized. The bill would sunset beginning on December 31, 2021.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5732 was introduced on July 12, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 14, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported, as amended, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution." No enumerating clause was listed.

H.R. 6297 — The Iran Sanctions Act Extension Act (Rep. Royce, R-CA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 15, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6297](#) would extend the expiration of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2026.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 6297 would amend [section 13\(b\) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996](#) to extend its expiration from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2026. The Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 imposed sanctions on persons making investments directly and significantly contributing to the enhancement of the ability of Iran or Libya to develop its petroleum resources.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 6297 was introduced on November 14, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States." No enumerating clause was listed.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*