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H. Res. 660 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives to support the territorial integrity of Georgia (Rep. Poe, R-TX)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Res. 660](#) would express a sense of the House of Representatives to support the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, and support the policy of the United States to not recognize territorial changes effected by force.

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. Res. 660 would express a sense of the House of Representatives that:

(1) supports the policy of the United States to not recognize territorial changes effected by force, and affirms that this policy should continue to guide United States foreign policy;

(2) condemns the military intervention and occupation of Georgia by the Russian Federation and its continuous illegal activities along the occupation line in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

(3) calls upon the Russia to withdraw its recognition of Georgia's territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia as independent countries, to refrain from acts and policies that undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and to take steps to fulfill all the terms and conditions of the August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

(4) stresses the necessity of progress on core issues within the [Geneva International Discussions](#), including a legally binding pledge from Russia on the non-use of force, the establishment of international security arrangements in the occupied regions of Georgia, and the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their origin;

(5) urges the U.S. government to declare unequivocally that it will not recognize the de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russia over any part of Georgia, its airspace, or its territorial waters, including Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia under any circumstances;

(6) urges the U.S. Administration to deepen cooperation with Georgia in all areas of the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, including Georgia's advancement towards Euro-Atlantic integration;

(7) urges the U.S. Administration to place emphasis on enhancing Georgia's security through joint military trainings and providing self-defensive capabilities in order to enhance Georgia's independent statehood and national sovereignty; and

(8) affirms that a free, united, democratic, and sovereign Georgia is in the long-term interest of the United States as it promotes peace and stability in the region

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Res. 660 was introduced on March 23, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 14, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No Constitutional Authority statement is available.

H. Res. 634 — Recognizing the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation, and to ensure regional security and human rights, as amended (Rep. Salmon, R-AZ)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Res. 634](#) would express a sense of the House of Representatives recognizing the importance of the United States-South Korea-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation.

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. Res. 634 would express a sense of the House of Representatives (1) strongly condemning North Korea's nuclear tests, missile launches, and continued provocations; (2) reaffirming the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea (ROK)-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korea's destabilizing activities and nuclear proliferation, and to bolster regional security; (3) supporting joint military exercises and other efforts to strengthen cooperation, improve defense capabilities, and oppose regional threats like North Korea; (4) encouraging the deployment and United States-South Korea-Japan coordination of regional advanced ballistic missile defense systems against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and provocations; (5) calling for the expansion of information and intelligence sharing and sustained diplomatic cooperation between the United States, South Korea, and Japan; and (6) underscoring the importance of the trilateral relationship in tracking North Korea human rights violations and holding it accountable for its abuses against its citizens and the citizens of other countries.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Res. 634 was introduced on March 2, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 14, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No Constitutional Authority statement is available.

H.R. 4481 — Education for All Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Lowey, D-NY)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4481](#) would require the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop a comprehensive U.S. strategy to promote quality universal basic education, and designate a Senior Coordinator of United States Government Actions to Provide Basic Education Assistance.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4481 would cost less than \$500,000 each year and total \$1 million over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply because enacting H.R. 4481 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may feel that supporting international basic education is not an appropriate function of the U.S. government or use of domestic taxpayer funds. Other conservatives may highlight the value of international assistance to promote American values and interests abroad through programs assisting developing nations to improve equitable access to education.

- **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. 4481 would amend section 105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 ([22 U.S.C. 2151c](#)) to state that it shall be the policy of the United States to work with partner countries and other donors to promote sustainable, quality basic education through programs and activities that: (1) align with and respond to the needs, capacities, and commitment of developing countries to strengthen educational systems; (2) promote education as a foundation for sustained economic growth and development within a holistic assistance strategy; and (3) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and quality of basic education programs. United States policy would be guided by principles of aid effectiveness to include assistance: (1) aligned with and advance United States diplomatic, development, and national security interests; (2) aligned with and support the national education plans and country development strategies of partner countries, including activities that are appropriate for and meet the needs of local and indigenous cultures.

Not later than October 1, 2016, October 1, 2021, and October 1, 2026, the president would be directed to submit a comprehensive United States strategy to Congress to promote quality basic education in partner countries by:. The strategy would be mandated to: (1) build the capacity of relevant actors in partner countries to develop and implement national education plans that are aligned with country development strategies; (2) identify and replicate successful interventions that improve access to and quality of education; (3) project general levels of resources needed to achieve stated program objectives; (4) leverage United States capabilities; and (5) improve coordination and reduce duplication among relevant executive

branch agencies, other donors, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and governments in partner countries.

The bill would further require that assistance to foreign countries or those parts of the territories of foreign countries that are affected by or emerging from armed conflict, humanitarian crises, or other emergency situations may be used to support efforts to ensure a continuity of basic education for all children through appropriate formal and non-formal education programs and services, and that basic education U.S. assistance to countries in emergency settings would be informed by the Minimum Standards of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies.

H.R. 4481 would establish within USAID, a Senior Coordinator of United States International Basic Education Assistance to oversee and coordinate all resources and activities of the United States government relating to the promotion of international basic education programs and activities. To offset any costs incurred by USAID to carry out the establishment and appointment of a Senior Coordinator of United States International Basic Education Assistance, the president would be directed to eliminate such positions within the agency. The president would be directed to ensure that programs carried out under the strategy shall apply rigorous monitoring and evaluation methodologies to focus on learning and accountability, and include methodological guidance, as well as additional specified criteria.

The bill would also express a sense of Congress that: (1) education lays the foundation for increased civic participation, democratic governance, sustained economic growth, and healthier, more stable societies; (2) it is in the national interest of the United States to promote access to sustainable, quality universal basic education in developing countries; (3) United States resources and leadership should be utilized in a manner that best ensures a successful international effort to provide children in developing countries with a quality basic education in order to achieve the goal of quality universal basic education; and (4) promoting gender parity in basic education from childhood through adolescence serves United States diplomatic, economic, and security interests worldwide.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4481 was introduced on February 4, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 14, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (as amended) in the nature of a substitute 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 Article I." No specific section or enumerating clause was listed.

H.R. 5537 — Digital GAP Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Royce, R-CA)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5537](#), the Digital Global Access Policy Act, would codify the Department of State's efforts to encourage developing countries to improve mobile and fixed access to the internet.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 5537 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply because enacting H.R. 5537 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may feel that supporting international development of internet technology is not an appropriate function of the U.S. government or use of domestic taxpayer funds. Other conservatives may highlight the value of international assistance to promote American values and interests abroad through programs assisting developing nations to improve unrestricted and easy access to the internet, especially in autocratic regimes.

- **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. 5537 would express a statement of policy that it is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with the governments of foreign countries, international organizations, regional economic communities, businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders in a concerted effort to: (1) promote first-time internet access to mobile or broadband internet for at least 1.5 billion people in developing countries by 2020 in both urban and rural areas; (2) promote internet deployment and related coordination, capacity building, and build-once policies and approaches in developing countries; (3) promote policy changes that encourage first-time affordable access to the internet in developing countries; (4) promote the removal of tax and regulatory barriers to internet access; (5) promote the use of the internet to increase economic growth and trade; (6) promote the use of the internet to bolster democracy, government accountability, transparency, and human rights; (7) promote internet access and inclusion into internet policymaking for women, people with disabilities, minorities, low-income and marginalized groups, and underserved populations; and (8) promote cybersecurity and data protection.

The bill would express a sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should redesignate an existing Assistant Secretary position to be the Assistant Secretary for Cyberspace to lead the Department of State's diplomatic cyberspace policy generally, including for cybersecurity, internet access, internet freedom, and to promote an open, secure, and reliable information and communications technology infrastructure. The Secretary of State would be directed to: (1) update existing training programs relevant to policy

discussions; and (2) promote the recruitment of candidates with technical expertise into the civil service and the Foreign Service. To offset any costs incurred by the Department of State to carry out the designation of an Assistant Secretary for Cyberspace, the Secretary of State would be directed to eliminate such positions within the Department of State. The redesignation of the Assistant Secretary position would not be construed as increasing the number of Assistant Secretary positions at the Department of State above the current authorized level of 24.

H.R. 5537 would express a sense of Congress that the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should: (1) integrate efforts to expand internet access, develop appropriate technologies, and enhance digital literacy into the education, development, and economic growth programs of the agency; (2) expand the utilization of information and communications technologies in humanitarian aid and disaster relief responses and United States operations involving stabilization and security; (3) establish and promote guidelines for the protection of personal information of individuals served by humanitarian, disaster, and development programs directly through the United States government, through contracts funded by the United States government and by international organizations.

The bill would also express a sense of Congress that access to technology can transform agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development which are the sectors in which Peace Corps currently develops positions for volunteers, and that the Peace Corps should develop positions for volunteers that are focused on leveraging technology for development, education, and social and economic mobility.

The bill would urge the president to direct United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body commit to: (1) increase efforts to promote gender-equitable internet access, in partnership with stakeholders and consistent with host countries' absorptive capacity; (2) enhance coordination with stakeholders in increasing affordable and gender-equitable access to the internet; (3) integrate gender-equitable affordable internet access into existing economic and business assessments, evaluations, and indexes; (4) standardize inclusion of broadband conduit fiber optic cables that support broadband or wireless facilities for broadband service; as well as other specified initiatives.

The bill would further require that the President submit plans to Congress to promote partnerships by United States development agencies, as well as a report on efforts to implement the policy and a discussion of the plans and existing efforts by the United States government in developing countries.

The President would be directed to include in the next White House Cyberspace Strategy information relating to: (1) methods to promote internet access in developing countries; (2) methods to globally promote cybersecurity policy consistent with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity; and (3) methods to promote global internet freedom principles, such as the freedoms of expression, assembly, association, and religion, while combating efforts to impose restrictions on such freedoms.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5537 was introduced on June 21, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 14, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

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. 2845 — AGOA Enhancement Act of 2015, as amended (Rep. Royce, R-CA)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2845](#) would direct the president to establish a website for the collection and dissemination of information regarding the [African Growth and Opportunity Act](#) (AGOA) and to develop and implement policies to encourage and facilitate trans-boundary cooperation among eligible sub-Saharan African countries in order to facilitate trade. The bill would additionally authorize the [Millennium Challenge Corporation](#) (MCC) to enter into a compact (providing grant funding) with a country solely for the purpose of increasing regional economic integration, trade, or other economic collaborations.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 2845 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2016-2020 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 2845 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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. 2845 would express that it is the policy of the United States to support efforts to: (1) improve the rule of law, promote free and fair elections, strengthen and expand the private sector, and fight corruption in sub-Saharan Africa; and (2) promote the role of women in social, political, and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.

H.R. 2845 would direct the president to establish a website for the collection and dissemination of information regarding AGOA to include information and technical assistance provided at United States Agency for International Development (USAID) regional trade hubs. The bill would urge the Secretary of State to direct United States embassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African countries to promote the use by such countries of the benefits available under AGOA; and include on a publicly available Internet website of such diplomatic missions a link to the AGOA website. The bill would urge the president to, after each meeting of the United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, publish on the AGOA website, all outcomes of the meeting of the forum, and an assessment of progress made with respect to any commitments made by member countries and the private sector from the previous meeting of the forum.

The President would be urged to: (1) develop and implement policies to encourage and facilitate trans-boundary cooperation among eligible sub-Saharan African countries in order to facilitate trade; and encourage the provision of technical assistance to eligible sub-Saharan African countries to establish and sustain adequate trade capacity development; (2) provide specific training for business in eligible sub-

Saharan African countries and government trade officials of eligible sub-Saharan African countries on utilizing access to the benefits of AGOA and other trade preference programs; (3) provide capacity building for African entrepreneurs and trade associations on production strategies, quality standards, formation of cooperatives, and market research and market development; (4) provide capacity building training to promote diversification of African products and value-added processing; and (5) provide capacity building and technical assistance funding for African businesses and institutions to help such businesses and institutions comply with United States counter-terrorism initiatives and policies.

H.R. 2845 would further authorize an eligible country that has entered into and has in effect a Millennium Challenge Compact to enter into another compact with a country solely for the purposes of regional economic integration, increased regional trade, or cross-border collaborations; and if the MCC Board determines that the country is making considerable and demonstrable progress in implementing the terms of the existing Compact and supplementary agreements.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2845 was introduced on June 19, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On November 5, 2015 the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

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

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