



**Statement of Lead Republican Michael McCaul (R-TX)
House Committee on Foreign Affairs**

Markup of H. Res. 75, H.R. 739, H. Res. 156, H.R. 596, H.R. 295
March 7, 2019

Remarks as Prepared

Today, our Committee will markup three important bills and two resolutions.

The Cyber Diplomacy Act, which I introduced with Chairman Engel, takes several steps to support an open, interoperable and secure cyberspace.

Our bill:

- Establishes an Ambassador-At-Large to lead the State Department's cyber diplomacy efforts;
- Outlines an international cyber policy to advance democratic principles and reject Russian and Chinese attempts to control and censor the internet; and
- Requires the State Department to provide assessments related to internet freedoms in other countries.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, malicious cyber activity by state and nonstate actors threatens our national security and harms our economic interests.

We understand the State Department has plans for a new cyber bureau, which varies from what our bill calls for. I pledge to work with the Department, the Chairman, and the Senate to find the best path forward to advance our shared goals of bolstering and elevating State's critical cyber mission.

I also want to thank Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Keating for their bipartisan bill, the End Banking for Human Traffickers Act, which will help address the scourge of human trafficking.



This bill will help choke off traffickers' access to the financial system. It's time we put an end to this modern-day form of slavery once and for all.

We will also markup the Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act. This bill clearly states that America will not recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea. Doing so would condone Russia's belligerent behavior towards its neighbors. Vladimir Putin needs to understand that we will not tolerate this kind of aggression in Crimea and elsewhere.

That is also why today's resolution condemning the assassination of Boris Nemtsov is also important. We cannot be silent when political opponents are targeted for supporting democratic reforms. I was proud to introduce this resolution with Chairman Engel because Putin needs to know that both Democrats and Republicans will call out and condemn his authoritarian ways.

Finally, we must continue to stand united in our fight against Islamist terrorism. The terror attack in Nairobi, Kenya on January 15th that killed 21 people, including Jason Spindler, a fellow Texan, was a painful reminder that our fight against terrorism is a global struggle. Our resolution condemns this attack and reaffirms our commitment to eradicating this evil.

I look forward to passing these bills out of Committee with bipartisan support.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, on the Floor and in the Halls of Congress, there has been much discussion recently about Anti-Semitism. I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue and I look forward to continuing to work with you on measures that support our close ally Israel and that denounce Anti-Semitism, wherever it may be.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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