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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MEEKS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening the
5 Quad Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) as a Pacific power, the United States should
4 continue to strengthen joint cooperation between the
5 United States, Australia, India, and Japan (com-
6 monly referred to as the “Quadrilateral Dialogue” or
7 “Quad” and referred to as such in this Act) to en-
8 hance and implement a shared vision to meet re-
9 gional challenges and to promote a free, open, inclu-
10 sive, resilient, and healthy Indo-Pacific, that is char-
11 acterized by respect for democratic norms, rule of
12 law, and market-driven economic growth, and is free
13 from undue influence and coercion;

14 (2) the United States should expand dialogue
15 and cooperation through the Quad with a range of
16 partners to support peace and prosperity, the rule of
17 law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the peace-
18 ful resolution of disputes, and democratic resilience
19 in the Indo-Pacific;

20 (3) the pledge from the first-ever Quad leaders
21 meeting on March 12, 2021, to respond to the eco-
22 nomic and health impacts of COVID-19, and to ad-
23 dress shared challenges, including in cyberspace,
24 critical technologies, counterterrorism, quality infra-
25 structure investment, and humanitarian assistance
26 and disaster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid

1 the foundation for critical cooperation among Quad
2 countries;

3 (4) the Quad countries, working through insti-
4 tutions, including the United States International
5 Development Finance Corporation, the Japan Inter-
6 national Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Bank
7 for International Cooperation, and through partner-
8 ships with multilateral development banks such as
9 the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank,
10 should finance development and infrastructure
11 projects in the Indo-Pacific region that are competi-
12 tive, transparent, and sustainable;

13 (5) President Biden's decision to elevate the
14 Quad to the leaders level was critical to bolstering
15 cooperation, and all four countries should work to
16 ensure that the Quad Leaders' Summit continues to
17 take place regularly;

18 (6) the ambitious framework for ongoing co-
19 operation laid out by the four leaders at the fifth
20 convening of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiro-
21 shima on May 20, 2023, should continue; and

22 (7) the formation of a Quad Intra-Parliamen-
23 tary Working Group will—

1 (A) sustain and deepen engagement be-
2 tween senior officials of the Quad countries on
3 a full spectrum of issues; and

4 (B) be modeled on the successful and long-
5 standing bilateral intra-parliamentary groups
6 between the United States and Mexico, Canada,
7 and the United Kingdom, as well as other for-
8 mal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

9 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
12 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
13 a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation with
14 the Quad.

15 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy re-
16 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) A description of how the United States in-
18 tends to demonstrate democratic leadership in the
19 Indo-Pacific through quadrilateral engagement with
20 India, Japan, and Australia on shared interests and
21 common challenges.

22 (2) A summary of—

23 (A) current and past Quad initiatives
24 across the whole of the United States Govern-
25 ment, including to promote broad based and in-

1 elusive economic growth and investment, and to
2 advance technology cooperation, energy innova-
3 tion, climate mitigation and adaptation, phys-
4 ical and digital infrastructure development, edu-
5 cation, disaster management, and global health
6 security;

7 (B) proposals agreed to by all Quad coun-
8 tries since January 2021 to deepen existing se-
9 curity cooperation, intelligence sharing, eco-
10 nomic partnerships, and multilateral coordina-
11 tion; and

12 (C) initiatives and agreements undertaken
13 jointly with Quad countries, in addition to other
14 like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, on
15 areas of shared interest since January 2021.

16 (3) A description of efforts, since January
17 2021, to jointly—

18 (A) expand ongoing COVID-19 cooperation
19 to prepare for the next pandemic by focusing on
20 medium-term vaccine and medical supply pro-
21 duction and building a broader dialogue on
22 global public health;

23 (B) develop international technology stand-
24 ards and share or co-develop new innovative
25 technologies of the future;

1 (C) combat economic coercion and develop
2 a framework for ensuring supply chain security
3 and resilience;

4 (D) deepen regional economic engagement
5 and integration, and strengthen regional rules
6 and standards around investment;

7 (E) strengthen climate actions on mitiga-
8 tion, adaptation, resilience, technology, capac-
9 ity-building, and climate finance;

10 (F) facilitate the development of quality in-
11 frastructure in the Indo-Pacific through joint fi-
12 nancing, investment, technical assistance, and
13 standards setting;

14 (G) enhance joint maritime security and
15 maritime domain awareness initiatives to pro-
16 tect the maritime commons and support inter-
17 national law and freedom of navigation in the
18 Indo-Pacific;

19 (H) enhance regional capacity and resil-
20 ience to cyber incidents and threats;

21 (I) work to strengthen capability to pre-
22 vent, detect and respond to threats posed by
23 terrorism and violent extremism;

24 (J) co-develop space-related technologies to
25 address shared challenges, share expertise and

1 experience in space situational awareness, and
2 enhance consultation to facilitate the peaceful,
3 safe and sustainable use of outer space; and

4 (K) any additional major streams of co-
5 operation.

6 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
7 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
8 sional committees” means—

9 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
10 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the
11 House of Representatives; and

12 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
13 the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

14 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUAD INTRA-PARLIAMENTARY**
15 **WORKING GROUP.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
18 State shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Gov-
19 ernments of Japan, Australia, and India (collectively, with
20 the United States, known as the “Quad”) with the goal
21 of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Intra-
22 Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer coopera-
23 tion on shared interests and values.

24 (b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—At such time as the govern-
2 ments of the Quad countries enter into a written
3 agreement described in subsection (a) to establish a
4 Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group, there
5 shall be established a United States Group, which
6 shall represent the United States at the Quad Intra-
7 Parliamentary Working Group.

8 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
10 Group shall be comprised of not more than 24
11 Members of Congress.

12 (B) APPOINTMENT.—Of the Members of
13 Congress appointed to the United States Group
14 under subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) half shall be appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives,
17 based on recommendations from the minor-
18 ity leader, from among Members of the
19 House, not fewer than four of whom shall
20 be members of the Committee on Foreign
21 Affairs; and

22 (ii) half shall be appointed by the
23 President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
24 based on recommendations of the majority
25 leader and minority leader of the Senate,

1 from among Members of the Senate, not
2 fewer than four of whom shall be members
3 of the Committee on Foreign Relations
4 (unless the majority leader and minority
5 leader determine otherwise).

6 (3) MEETINGS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
8 Group shall seek to meet not less frequently
9 than annually with representatives and appro-
10 priate staff of the legislatures of Japan, Aus-
11 tralia, and India, and any other country invited
12 by mutual agreement of the Quad countries.

13 (B) LIMITATION.—A meeting described in
14 subparagraph (A) may be held—

15 (i) in the United States;

16 (ii) in another Quad country during
17 periods when Congress is not in session; or

18 (iii) virtually.

19 (4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

20 (A) HOUSE DELEGATION.—The Speaker of
21 the House of Representatives shall designate
22 the chairperson or vice chairperson of the dele-
23 gation of the United States Group from the
24 House from among members of the Committee
25 on Foreign Affairs.

1 (B) SENATE DELEGATION.—The President
2 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the
3 chairperson or vice chairperson of the delega-
4 tion of the United States Group from the Sen-
5 ate from among members of the Committee on
6 Foreign Relations.

7 (5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
9 be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each fiscal
10 years 2024 through 2028 for the United States
11 Group.

12 (B) DISTRIBUTION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year
14 for which an appropriation is made for the
15 United States Group, half of the amount
16 appropriated shall be available to the dele-
17 gation from the House of Representatives
18 and half of the amount appropriated shall
19 be available to the delegation from the
20 Senate.

21 (ii) METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION.—The
22 amounts available to the delegations of the
23 House of Representatives and the Senate
24 under clause (i) shall be disbursed on
25 vouchers to be approved by the chairperson

1 of the delegation from the House of Rep-
2 resentatives and the chairperson of the del-
3 egation from the Senate, respectively.

4 (6) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States
5 Group may accept gifts or donations of services or
6 property, subject to the review and approval, as ap-
7 propriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House
8 of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of
9 the Senate.

10 (7) CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES.—The
11 certificate of the chairperson of the delegation from
12 the House of Representatives or the delegation of
13 the Senate of the United States Group shall be final
14 and conclusive upon the accounting officers in the
15 auditing of the accounts of the United States Group.

16 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States
17 Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
18 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report
20 for each fiscal year for which an appropriation is
21 made for the United States Group, including a de-
22 scription of its expenditures under such appropria-
23 tion.