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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH 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 Inter-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 Inter-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 address shared chal-
22 lenges, including in public health, cyberspace, critical
23 technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure
24 investment, and humanitarian assistance and dis-
25 aster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid the

1 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 leader level was critical to bolstering co-
15 operation, and all 4 countries should work to ensure
16 that the Quad Leaders' Summit continues to take
17 place regularly;

18 (6) the ambitious framework for ongoing co-
19 operation laid out by the 4 leaders at the fifth con-
20 vening of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima
21 on May 20, 2023, should continue;

22 (7) Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosted the
23 Quad Foreign Ministers in Washington D.C. on Jan-
24 uary 21, 2025—his first day in office—underscoring

1 the continued importance of cooperation between the
2 4 democracies; and

3 (8) the formation of a Quad Inter-Parliamen-
4 tary Working Group will—

5 (A) sustain and deepen engagement be-
6 tween senior officials of the Quad countries on
7 a full spectrum of issues; and

8 (B) be modeled on the successful and long-
9 standing bilateral inter-parliamentary groups
10 between the United States and Mexico, Canada,
11 and the United Kingdom, as well as other for-
12 mal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

13 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

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

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

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

1 (2) A summary of—

2 (A) current and past Quad initiatives
3 across the whole of the United States Govern-
4 ment, including to promote broad based and in-
5 clusive economic growth and investment, and to
6 advance technology cooperation, energy innova-
7 tion, climate mitigation and adaptation, phys-
8 ical and digital infrastructure development, edu-
9 cation, disaster management, resilient supply
10 chains including in critical minerals, and global
11 health security;

12 (B) proposals agreed to by all Quad coun-
13 tries since January 2021 to deepen existing se-
14 curity cooperation, intelligence sharing, eco-
15 nomic partnerships, and multilateral coordina-
16 tion; and

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

21 (3) A description of the diplomatic and bureau-
22 cratic barriers and obstacles to implementing and
23 expanding existing streams of Quad cooperation.

1 Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer coopera-
2 tion on shared interests and values.

3 (b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

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

11 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
13 Group shall be comprised of not more than 24
14 Members of Congress.

15 (B) APPOINTMENT.—Of the Members of
16 Congress appointed to the United States Group
17 under subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) half shall be appointed by the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives,
20 based on recommendations from the minor-
21 ity leader, from among Members of the
22 House, not fewer than 4 of whom shall be
23 members of the Committee on Foreign Af-
24 fairs; and

1 (ii) half shall be appointed by the
2 President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
3 based on recommendations of the majority
4 leader and minority leader of the Senate,
5 from among Members of the Senate, not
6 fewer than 4 of whom shall be members of
7 the Committee on Foreign Relations (un-
8 less the majority leader and minority lead-
9 er determine otherwise).

10 (3) MEETINGS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
12 Group shall seek to meet not less frequently
13 than annually with representatives and appro-
14 priate staff of the legislatures of Australia,
15 India, and Japan, and any other country in-
16 vited by mutual agreement of the Quad coun-
17 tries.

18 (B) LIMITATION.—A meeting described in
19 subparagraph (A) may be held—

20 (i) in the United States;

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

23 (iii) virtually.

24 (4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

1 (A) HOUSE DELEGATION.—The Speaker of
2 the House of Representatives shall designate
3 the chairperson or vice chairperson of the dele-
4 gation of the United States Group from the
5 House from among members of the Committee
6 on Foreign Affairs.

7 (B) SENATE DELEGATION.—The President
8 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the
9 chairperson or vice chairperson of the delega-
10 tion of the United States Group from the Sen-
11 ate from among members of the Committee on
12 Foreign Relations.

13 (5) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States
14 Group may accept gifts or donations of services or
15 property, subject to the review and approval, as ap-
16 propriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House
17 of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of
18 the Senate.

19 (6) CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES.—The
20 certificate of the chairperson of the delegation from
21 the House of Representatives or the delegation of
22 the Senate of the United States Group shall be final
23 and conclusive upon the accounting officers in the
24 auditing of the accounts of the United States Group.

1 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States
2 Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
3 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
4 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report
5 at the end of each year that outlines the group’s ac-
6 tivities that year, including a description of its ex-
7 penditures, and its recommendations for enhancing
8 the Quad.

9 (8) ENGAGEMENT WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON THE
10 QUAD.—Senior United States officials shall provide
11 regular updates and briefings to the United States
12 Group, including leading up to and after major
13 Quadrilateral dialogues, to ensure close coordination
14 with Congress.