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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to establish a committee of the National Security Council on hostage recovery, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to establish a committee of the National Security Council on hostage recovery, and for other purposes.

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 “Warren Weinstein
5 Hostage Rescue Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON**
2 **HOSTAGE RECOVERY.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 101 of the National
4 Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following new subsection:

6 “(m) COMMITTEE ON HOSTAGE RECOVERY.—(1)
7 There is established within the National Security Council
8 a committee to be known as the Committee on Hostage
9 Recovery (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Com-
10 mittee’).

11 “(2) The Committee shall consist of the following
12 members (or designees):

13 “(A) An individual who is appointed by the
14 President to serve as chair of the Committee.

15 “(B) The Secretary of State.

16 “(C) The Secretary of the Treasury.

17 “(D) The Secretary of Defense.

18 “(E) The Attorney General.

19 “(F) The Director of the Federal Bureau of In-
20 vestigation.

21 “(G) The Director of National Intelligence.

22 “(H) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
23 Staff.

24 “(I) The Assistant to the President for Na-
25 tional Security Affairs.

26 “(3) The functions of the Committee shall include—

1 “(A) coordinating among the departments and
2 agencies of the Federal Government and coordi-
3 nating among the United States and the allies of the
4 United States regarding retrieval of United States
5 person hostages;

6 “(B) coordinating with the Interagency Fusion
7 Cell on Hostage Recovery;

8 “(C) developing strategies and guidelines for
9 hostage retrieval and analyzing all options and
10 methods of rescue;

11 “(D) developing policies and procedures to ef-
12 fectively share information between departments and
13 agencies of the Federal Government responsible for
14 activities relating to hostage rescue; and

15 “(E) developing a strategy to keep family mem-
16 bers of United States person hostages informed of
17 the status of such hostages and inform such family
18 members of updates, procedures, and policies that do
19 not compromise the national security of the United
20 States.

21 “(4) The chair of the Committee may not have duties
22 or responsibilities in the Federal Government other than
23 such duties or responsibilities relating to serving as the
24 chair of the Committee.

1 “(5)(A) On a quarterly basis, the Committee shall
2 submit to the appropriate congressional committees and
3 the members of Congress described in subparagraph (B)
4 a report that includes a summary of—

5 “(i) the general activities of the Committee and
6 the Interagency Fusion Cell on Hostage Recovery
7 during the period covered by the report; and

8 “(ii) specific actions conducted during such pe-
9 riod by the Committee and the Interagency Fusion
10 Cell on Hostage Recovery with respect to United
11 States person hostages.

12 “(B) The members of Congress described in this sub-
13 paragraph are, with respect to a United States person hos-
14 tage covered by a report under subparagraph (A), the Sen-
15 ators representing the State, and the Member, Delegate,
16 or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives
17 representing the district, that includes the United States
18 person hostage.

19 “(C) Each report under subparagraph (A) may be
20 submitted in classified form.

21 “(6) In this subsection:

22 “(A) The term ‘Interagency Fusion Cell on
23 Hostage Recovery’ means the Interagency Fusion
24 Cell on Hostage Recovery established by section
25 119C of this Act.

1 “(B) The term ‘United States person hostage’
2 means a citizen of the United States or an alien law-
3 fully admitted for permanent residence (as defined
4 in section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Na-
5 tionality Act) who has been abducted or is suspected
6 of having been abducted outside of the United
7 States or is being held outside of the United
8 States.”.

9 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
10 gress that the President should appoint a Special Advisor
11 on Hostage Affairs who—

12 (1) serves as the chair of the Committee on
13 Hostage Recovery of the National Security Council;

14 (2) has extensive experience in foreign policy,
15 counterterrorism, and hostage recovery; and

16 (3) serves (or the designee of the Special Advi-
17 sor serves) as a primary liaison between the Federal
18 Government and the family of a United States per-
19 son hostage (as defined in subsection (m) of section
20 101 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
21 3021), as added by subsection (a) of this section).

22 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
23 tion, or the amendment made by this section, shall be con-
24 strued as authorizing the Federal Government to negotiate
25 with a state sponsor of terrorism or an organization that

1 the Secretary of State has designated as a foreign terrorist
2 organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration
3 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

4 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY GROUP ON HOSTAGES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the National Secu-
6 rity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by
7 adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 119C. INTERAGENCY GROUP ON HOSTAGES.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an
10 interagency group on hostages to be known as the ‘Inter-
11 agency Fusion Cell on Hostage Recovery’.

12 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The chair of the Committee on
13 Hostage Recovery established by section 101(m) of this
14 Act shall serve as the director of the Interagency Fusion
15 Cell on Hostage Recovery.

16 “(c) DUTIES.—The Interagency Fusion Cell on Hos-
17 tage Recovery shall execute the strategies regarding hos-
18 tage retrieval of the Committee on Hostage Recovery.

19 “(d) ELEMENTS.—The Interagency Fusion Cell on
20 Hostage Recovery shall be composed of officials of the fol-
21 lowing departments or agencies of the Federal Govern-
22 ment who are proficient in hostage recovery strategy:

23 “(1) The Department of State.

24 “(2) The Department of the Treasury.

25 “(3) The Department of Defense.

1 “(4) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2 “(5) The Office of the Director of National In-
3 telligence.

4 “(e) REPORTING.—The Interagency Fusion Cell on
5 Hostage Recovery shall report to the Committee on Hos-
6 tage Recovery.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relat-
9 ing to section 119B the following new item:

 “Sec. 119C. Interagency group on hostages.”.