

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9202

To direct the President to submit to Congress a report on fugitives currently residing in other countries whose extradition is sought by the United States and related matters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2026

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the President to submit to Congress a report on fugitives currently residing in other countries whose extradition is sought by the United States and related matters, 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 “Walter Patterson Jus-
5 tice and Extradition Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Extradition is the formal surrender of a
2 person by one state to another state for prosecution
3 or punishment.

4 (2) Refusal by other nations to extradite or oth-
5 erwise render to the United States fugitives within
6 their jurisdiction who have been convicted of com-
7 mitting crimes on United States soil impedes the ju-
8 dicial process and undermines the rule of law.

9 (3) The United States has bilateral extradition
10 treaties with more than 100 nations and an extra-
11 dition agreement with the European Union, includ-
12 ing Portugal.

13 (4) The failure to bring criminal fugitives to
14 justice in the United States is an affront to the vic-
15 tims of those crimes.

16 (5) The refusal of Portugal, a close ally and
17 good friend of the United States, to extradite George
18 Wright, convicted of the 1962 murder of Walter
19 Patterson, fugitive from justice since his 1970 es-
20 cape from the Bayside State Prison in New Jersey,
21 is a deplorable example of a failure to extradite, and
22 has caused ongoing suffering and stress to Mr. Pat-
23 terson's surviving family and friends.

24 (6) The refusal to extradite George Wright is
25 emblematic of a number of such refusals from other

1 nations, such that United States policies and efforts
2 to secure extradition and the extradition policies of
3 countries from which the United States seeks extra-
4 dition and rendition bear further examination.

5 (7) Such examination will be promoted by the
6 issuance of a public report on the status of extra-
7 dition requests by the United States and related
8 matters.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
10 information necessary to evaluate and thereby strengthen
11 United States Government efforts to extradite fugitives.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that in meetings with for-
14 eign officials of countries from which the United States
15 seeks the extradition of fugitives, United States ambas-
16 sadors and other senior officials should prioritize advocacy
17 on fulfilling United States extradition requests, including
18 extradition of George Wright, an escaped convict and the
19 murderer of Walter Patterson of New Jersey.

20 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act and not later than the
23 end of each 12-month period thereafter, the President
24 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
25 a report on the following:

1 (1) The number of fugitives, and others with
2 respect to whom the United States Government is
3 seeking extradition or rendition, currently residing
4 in other countries whose extradition is sought by the
5 United States and a list of those countries.

6 (2) Diplomatic and other efforts, if any, the
7 United States has undertaken to secure the return
8 of such fugitives.

9 (3) The average length of time these cases have
10 been outstanding.

11 (4) How many of these cases have been resolved
12 to the satisfaction of the United States.

13 (5) Factors that have been barriers to the reso-
14 lution of these cases.

15 (6) Information on the number of United States
16 citizens whose extradition has been sought by other
17 countries during the past five years, a list of those
18 countries seeking such extradition, and the outcomes
19 of those requests.

20 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
21 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include
22 a classified annex if necessary.

23 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
24 priate congressional committees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
2 Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives; and

4 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
5 the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

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