Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, due to a long-scheduled obligation in northern Virginia this morning, I was unable to be present for the vote on the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012. I would have voted "yea" for this legislation if I was present because Magnitsky’s provisions are essential to hold those who violate human rights and freedom of speech accountable.

Stated against: Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 608, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on November 15, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll Nos. 605, 606, and 607. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 605 and 606 and "yea" on Roll No. 607.

On November 16, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll No. 608. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to approve H.R. 6156.

EXPRESSING VIGOROUS SUPPORT AND UNAVERSED COMMITMENT TO THE WELFARE, SECURITY, AND SURVIVAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS A JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC STATE WITH SECURE BORDERS AND RECOGNIZING AND STRONGLY SUPPORTING ITS RIGHT TO ACT IN SELF-DEFENSE TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS AGAINST ACTS OF TERRORISM

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 813, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House. The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 813

Whereas Hamas was founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel; Whereas Hamas has been designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization; Whereas Hamas refuses to recognize Israel’s right to exist, renounce violence, and accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians; Whereas Hamas has launched hundreds of rockets and missiles since Israel dismantled settlements and withdrew from Gaza in 2005; Whereas terrorists in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip have fired approximately 900 rockets and missile shells into Israel this year, an increase from roughly 675 attacks in 2011 and 350 in 2010; Whereas Hamas has increased the range of its rockets, reported with support from Iran and other terrorist entities; Whereas large numbers of Israelis in danger of rocket attacks from Gaza; Whereas, on November 14, 2012, President Barack Obama condemned the rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and reiterated Israel’s right to self-defense; and

Whereas Israel, a fellow democracy, has an inherent right to self-defense in the face of terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders and recognizes and strongly supports its inherent right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism; (2) reiterates that Hamas must end Gaza-linked terrorist rocket and missile attacks against Israel, recognize Israel’s right to exist, renounce violence, and agree to accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians; (3) urges the United Nations Security Council to condemn the recent spike in Gaza-linked terrorist missile attacks against Israel, and to reauthorize Israeli volunteer (GAZA)-based terrorist organizations from remaining or rebuilding the capability to launch rockets and missiles against Israel.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconider was laid on the table.

RUSSIA PNTR

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, last year, U.S. exports to Russia exceeded $11 billion. In my home State of Tennessee, companies such as International Paper, Cummins, and DuPont exported nearly $162 million in goods and services to Russia last year. We need to continue to build on our strong trade relations, and passing H.R. 6156, which will permanently normalize trade relations with Russia, will do just that.

By joining the rest of members of the World Trade Organization, we will put America on a level playing field with those already reaping the benefits from Russia’s accession to the WTO last August. This will enable American companies to anywhere from double to triple their number of contracts, which in turn will stimulate economic growth and job creation in America.

I applaud the House for passing H.R. 6156, a commonsense jobs bill that won’t cost taxpayers a dime, and I urge the Senate to follow our lead and pass this important legislation without delay.

SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND OPERATION PILLAR OF DEFENSE

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our ally, Israel, and her sovereign right to self-defense.

As we all know, Israel lives in a difficult neighborhood of instability, violence, and uncertainty. In the towns of

[Table of votes and roll numbers mentioned in the text]
H. Res. 813

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,
November 16, 2012.

Whereas Hamas was founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel;

Whereas Hamas has been designated by the Secretary of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization;

Whereas Hamas refuses to recognize Israel’s right to exist, renounce violence, and accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas Hamas has launched thousands of rockets and missiles since Israel dismantled settlements and withdrew from Gaza in 2005;

Whereas terrorists in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip have fired approximately 900 rockets and missile shells into Israel this year, an increase from roughly 675 attacks in 2011 and 350 in 2010;

Whereas Hamas has increased the range of its rockets, reportedly with support from Iran and others, putting additional large numbers of Israelis in danger of rocket attacks from Gaza;

Whereas, on November 14, 2012, President Barack Obama condemned the rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and reiterated Israel’s right to self-defense; and
Whereas Israel, a fellow democracy, has an inherent right to self defense in the face of terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizes and strongly supports its inherent right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism;

(2) reiterates that Hamas must end Gaza-linked terrorist rocket and missile attacks against Israel, recognize Israel’s right to exist, renounce violence, and agree to accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

(3) urges the United Nations Security Council to condemn the recent spike in Gaza-linked terrorist missile attacks against Israel, which risk causing civilian casualties in both Israel and Gaza; and

(4) encourages the President to continue to work diplomatically with the international community to prevent Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist organiza-
tions from retaining or rebuilding the capability to launch rockets and missiles against Israel.

Attest:

Clerk.