

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1150

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of
 4 2015”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
 6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; policy.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.
- Sec. 102. Annual Report on International Religious Freedom.
- Sec. 103. Training for Foreign Service officers; report.
- Sec. 104. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.

TITLE II—COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 201. Establishment and composition.
- Sec. 202. Commission personnel matters.
- Sec. 203. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 204. Standards of conduct and disclosure.
- Sec. 205. Termination.

TITLE III—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

- Sec. 301. Special Adviser for Global Religion Engagement and International Religious Freedom; Interagency Policy Committees.

TITLE IV—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

- Sec. 401. Presidential actions in response to violations of religious freedom.
- Sec. 402. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
- Sec. 403. Consultations.
- Sec. 404. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 405. Presidential waiver.
- Sec. 406. Termination of Presidential actions.
- Sec. 407. Statement of policy regarding country of particular concern designation for violent nonstate actors.

TITLE V—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 501. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.

TITLE VI—REFUGEE, ASYLUM, AND CONSULAR MATTERS

Sec. 601. Actions against persons responsible for committing particularly severe violations of international religious freedom.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Miscellaneous provisions.

Sec. 702. Clerical amendments.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY.**

2 Section 2 of the International Religious Freedom Act
3 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (4), in the fourth sen-
6 tence, by inserting “prohibitions on ritual ani-
7 mal slaughter, male infant circumcision, censor-
8 ship of religious content, or worship on the
9 Internet,” after “confiscations of property,”;

10 (B) in paragraph (5), by amending the sec-
11 ond sentence to read as follows: “In many coun-
12 tries, religious believers are forced to meet se-
13 cretly, and religious leaders and believers are
14 targeted by national security forces, violent
15 nonstate actors, and hostile mobs.”;

16 (C) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
17 paragraph (9); and

18 (D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the
19 following new paragraphs:

20 “(7) There is growing evidence that dem-
21 onstrates a connection between the absence of reli-
22 gious freedom and increased levels of persecution of

1 religious minorities, religiously motivated conflict,
2 violent extremism, and terrorism, including the kind
3 of terrorism that has reached the United States.

4 “(8) It is increasingly clear that understanding
5 religion and the political and security implications of
6 religious motivation and conviction is critical to the
7 success of United States diplomacy and foreign pol-
8 icy initiatives as there are studies that show—

9 “(A) 75 percent of the world’s population
10 lives in countries where the right to the freedom
11 of religion and belief is severely restricted, ei-
12 ther by the government or violent nonstate ac-
13 tors; and

14 “(B) 84 percent of the world’s population
15 identifies strongly with a specific religious
16 group.”; and

17 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
18 following new paragraph:

19 “(6) Because the promotion of international re-
20 ligious freedom is a foreign policy strategy that pro-
21 tects other, related human rights, advances democ-
22 racy abroad, and advances United States interests in
23 stability, security, and development globally, the pro-
24 motion of international religious freedom requires
25 new and evolving policies, global religion engagement

1 strategies, and diplomatic responses that are drawn
2 from the expertise of the national security agencies,
3 the diplomatic services, Congress, and other govern-
4 mental agencies and nongovernmental organizations,
5 and are coordinated across and carried out by the
6 entire range of Federal agencies that are engaged
7 with or conduct negotiations or United States Gov-
8 ernment funded programs with governments or vio-
9 lent nonstate actors that engage in or tolerate viola-
10 tions of religious freedom.”.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 Section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act
13 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—

14 (1) by amending paragraph (12) to read as fol-
15 lows:

16 “(12) SPECIAL ADVISER.—The term ‘Special
17 Adviser’ means the Special Advisor for Global Reli-
18 gion Engagement and International Religious Free-
19 dom described in section 101 of the National Secu-
20 rity Act of 1947.”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end, the following new
22 paragraphs:

23 “(14) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—The term ‘Spe-
24 cial Watch List’ means the Special Watch List de-
25 scribed in section 102(b)(1)(F)(iii).

1 “(15) VIOLENT NONSTATE ACTOR.—The term
2 ‘violent nonstate actor’ means a nonsovereign entity
3 or group that—

4 “(A) exercises significant political power or
5 influence at a national or international level;
6 and

7 “(B) engages in, finances, or tolerates vio-
8 lations of religious freedom, terrorism, or vio-
9 lence or discrimination targeting religious mi-
10 norities.

11 “(16) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
12 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
13 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
14 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)”.

15 **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF** 16 **STATE ACTIVITIES**

17 **SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-** 18 **DOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTER-** 19 **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

20 Section 101 of the International Religious Freedom
21 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
23 following new sentence: “The Office shall be located
24 in the Office of the Secretary of State.”;

1 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end be-
2 fore the period the following: “, and shall report di-
3 rectly to the Secretary of State”;

4 (3) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) by striking “responsibility” and in-
7 serting “responsibilities”;

8 (ii) by striking “shall be to advance”
9 and inserting the following: “shall be to—
10 “(A) advance”;

11 (iii) in subparagraph (A), as so added,
12 by striking the period at the end and in-
13 serting “; and”; and

14 (iv) by adding at the end the following
15 new subparagraph:

16 “(B) integrate United States international
17 religious freedom policies and religious engage-
18 ment strategies into democracy, civil society,
19 conflict prevention and mitigation, and develop-
20 ment efforts funded by the United States and
21 into the counterterrorism policies of Federal
22 agencies, including the Department of Defense,
23 the Department of Homeland Security, the De-
24 partment of State, and the Department of the
25 Treasury.”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “a prin-
2 cipal adviser” and inserting “the principal ad-
3 viser”;

4 (C) in paragraph (3)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
6 “and” at the end;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 the period at the end and inserting “;
9 and”; and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing new subparagraph:

12 “(C) contacts with nongovernmental orga-
13 nizations that have an impact on the state of
14 religious freedom in their respective societies or
15 regions, or internationally.”;

16 (D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
17 paragraph (5); and

18 (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
19 following new paragraph:

20 “(4) COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES.—In
21 order to promote religious freedom as an interest of
22 United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at
23 Large shall coordinate religious freedom policies and
24 religious engagement strategies across all programs,
25 projects, and activities of the United States, includ-

1 ing any appropriate programs, projects, and activi-
2 ties of the Department of Defense, the Department
3 of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the
4 Department of the Treasury, and the United States
5 Agency for International Development.”; and

6 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the
7 Office” and all that follows through the period at
8 the end and inserting “individuals to fill at least 20
9 full-time equivalent staff positions, and other tem-
10 porary staff positions as needed to compile, edit, and
11 manage the Annual Report, including a senior advi-
12 sor for the Office, under the direct supervision of the
13 Ambassador at Large, for the conduct of investiga-
14 tions by the Office on conditions of religious freedom
15 on a worldwide basis, and for any necessary travel
16 to carry out the provisions of this Act. The Sec-
17 retary of State shall also provide to the Ambassador
18 at Large representation funds that are sufficient to
19 carry out the duties described in this section at lev-
20 els at least equal to the amount of representation
21 funds provided to other Ambassadors at Large in
22 the Department of State.”.

1 **SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**
2 **FREEDOM.**

3 Section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious
4 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
7 by striking “September 1” and inserting “May 1”;

8 (2) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the
10 end;

11 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period at
12 the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following new
14 clause:

15 “(v) any action taken by a govern-
16 ment or other entity to censor religious
17 content, communications, or worship activi-
18 ties online, including descriptions of the
19 targeted religious group, the content, com-
20 munication, or activities censored, the
21 means used, and government or other enti-
22 ty engaged in such online censorship activi-
23 ties.”;

24 (3) in subparagraph (B), in the matter pre-
25 ceding clause (i)—

1 (A) by inserting “persecution of lawyers,
2 politicians, or other human rights advocates
3 seeking to defend the rights of members of reli-
4 gious groups or highlight religious freedom vio-
5 lations, prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter
6 or male infant circumcision,” after “entire reli-
7 gions,”; and

8 (B) by inserting “policies that ban or re-
9 strict the public manifestation of religious belief
10 and the peaceful involvement of religious groups
11 or their members in the political life of each
12 such foreign country,” after “such groups,”;

13 (4) in subparagraph (C)—

14 (A) by striking “A description” and insert-
15 ing “A comprehensive description”;

16 (B) by striking “policies in support” and
17 inserting “religious engagement policies in sup-
18 port”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end before the period
20 the following: “, and a unique, comprehensive,
21 and country-specific analysis of the impact of
22 actions by the United States on the status of
23 religious freedom in each such country”; and

24 (5) in subparagraph (F), by adding at the end
25 the following new clause:

1 “(iii) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—A list,
2 to be known as the ‘Special Watch List’,
3 which shall identify any country or violent
4 nonstate actor that has engaged in or tol-
5 erates violations of religious freedom dur-
6 ing the previous reporting year but which
7 the President determines does not meet, at
8 the time of the publication of the Annual
9 Report, all of the criteria described in sec-
10 tion 3(11) for designation as a country of
11 particular concern for religious freedom
12 under section 402(b)(1).”.

13 **SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS; RE-**
14 **PORT.**

15 (a) AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF
16 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980
17 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
19 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

20 (2) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by strik-
21 ing “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFU-
22 GEEES.—The Secretary of State”;

23 (3) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by strik-
24 ing “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD
25 SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”;

1 (4) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(a) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State
5 shall develop a curriculum for training United States
6 Foreign Service officers in the scope and strategic
7 value of international religious freedom, how viola-
8 tions of international religious freedom harm funda-
9 mental United States interests, how the advance-
10 ment of international religious freedom can advance
11 such interests, how United States international reli-
12 gious freedom policy should be carried out in prac-
13 tice by United States diplomats and other Foreign
14 Service officers, and the relevance and relationship
15 of international religious freedom to United States
16 defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs
17 efforts to combat violent extremism. The Secretary
18 of State shall ensure the availability of sufficient re-
19 sources to develop and implement such curriculum.

20 “(2) ROLE OF OTHER OFFICIALS.—The Sec-
21 retary of State shall carry out paragraph (1)—

22 “(A) with the assistance of the Amba-
23 sador at Large for International Religious
24 Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the
25 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998;

1 “(B) in coordination with the Director of
2 the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs
3 Training Center and other Federal officials as
4 appropriate; and

5 “(C) in consultation with the United
6 States Commission on International Religious
7 Freedom established in section 201(a) of the
8 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

9 “(b) TRAINING PROGRAM.—Not later than the date
10 that is one year after the date of the enactment of the
11 Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of
12 2015, the Director of the George P. Shultz National For-
13 eign Affairs Training Center shall begin mandatory train-
14 ing on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers,
15 including all entry level officers, all officers prior to depar-
16 ture for posting outside the United States, and all out-
17 going deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such
18 training shall, at minimum, be a separate, independent,
19 and required segment of each of the following:

20 “(1) The A–100 course attended by all Foreign
21 Service officers.

22 “(2) The courses required of every Foreign
23 Service officer prior to a posting outside the United
24 States, with segments tailored to the particular reli-
25 gious demography, religious freedom conditions, reli-

1 religious engagement strategies, and United States
2 strategies for advancing religious freedom, in each
3 receiving country.

4 “(3) The courses required of all outgoing dep-
5 uty chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

6 “(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and
7 training materials developed pursuant to subsections (a)
8 and (b) shall be shared with the United States Armed
9 Forces, intelligence community (as such term is defined
10 in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947), and
11 all other Federal departments and agencies whose per-
12 sonnel serve as attachés, advisors, or detailees in United
13 States embassies globally to provide training and particu-
14 larized instruction on United States religious freedom poli-
15 cies, religious traditions, religious engagement strategies,
16 religious and cultural issues, and efforts to combat ter-
17 rorism and violent religious extremism.”.

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with
20 the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for Inter-
21 national Religious Freedom, and the Director of the
22 George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Cen-
23 ter, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
24 the House of Representatives and the Committee on For-
25 eign Relations of the Senate a report containing a com-

1 prehensive plan for undertaking training for Foreign Serv-
2 ice officers as required under section 708 of the Foreign
3 Services Act of 1980, as amended by subsection (a) of this
4 section.

5 **SEC. 104. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELI-**
6 **GIUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.**

7 Section 108 of the International Religious Freedom
8 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6417) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “SENSE OF
11 THE CONGRESS” and inserting “POLICY
12 STATEMENT ON DIPLOMATIC ADVOCACY FOR
13 PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE”; and

14 (B) by striking “it is the sense of the Con-
15 gress that officials of the executive branch of
16 Government should promote” and inserting “it
17 shall be the policy of the United States Govern-
18 ment that all officials of the executive branch,
19 including the Secretary of State, the Amba-
20 sador at Large for Religious Freedom, and
21 State Department officials from regional bu-
22 reaus, as appropriate, shall promote”;

23 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “, as appro-
24 piate, provide” and insert “make available”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 section:

3 “(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE COMMIS-
4 SION.—The Commission shall make publicly available on-
5 line and in official publications, regularly updated lists of
6 persons it determines are imprisoned, detained, dis-
7 appeared, placed under house arrest, tortured, or subject
8 to forced renunciations of faith for their religious activity
9 or religious freedom advocacy by a foreign government or
10 violent nonstate actor that the Commission recommends
11 for designation as a country of particular concern for reli-
12 gious freedom under section 402(b) and include as much
13 publically available information as possible on the condi-
14 tions and circumstances of such individuals. In compiling
15 such lists, the Commission shall exercise all appropriate
16 discretion, including consideration of the safety and secu-
17 rity of, and benefit to, the persons who may be included
18 on the lists and their families.”.

19 **TITLE II—COMMISSION ON**
20 **INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**
21 **FREEDOM**

22 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 201 of
24 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
25 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by inserting before the period

1 at the end the following: “, which shall be an independent
2 Federal Government advisory body”.

3 (b) SELECTION.—Subsection (b)(2)(A) of such sec-
4 tion is amended by inserting at the end the following new
5 sentence: “The Commission as a whole shall also have ex-
6 pertise on the variety of faiths practiced around the
7 world.”.

8 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—Subsection (b)(3) of such section
9 is amended by striking “The appointments required by
10 paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 120 days after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act.” and inserting the
12 following: “An appointment required by subparagraph (B)
13 of paragraph (1) should be made within 90 days of a va-
14 cancy on the Commission.”.

15 (d) VACANCIES.—Subsection (g) of such section is
16 amended by striking the second sentence.

17 **SEC. 202. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 204 of
19 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
20 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended in the second sentence, by in-
21 serting “voting” after “nine”.

22 (b) COMPENSATION.—Subsection (b) of such section
23 is amended by inserting “voting members of the” after
24 “The”.

1 (c) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Subsection (e) of such
2 section is amended by adding at the end the following new
3 sentence: “The Department of State is encouraged to
4 allow Commissioners and Commission staff with the ap-
5 propriate security clearance access to classified informa-
6 tion, in order to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of
7 their positions.”.

8 (d) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—
9 Subsection (g) of such section is amended by inserting “,
10 including discrimination on the basis of religion” after
11 “employment discrimination”.

12 **SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 Section 207(a) of the International Religious Free-
14 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by strik-
15 ing “2015” and inserting “2021”.

16 **SEC. 204. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.**

17 Section 208(d)(2) of the International Religious
18 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435a(d)(2)) is amended
19 by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

20 “(H) Intern, fellowship, and volunteer pro-
21 grams that are primarily of educational benefit
22 to the intern, fellow, or volunteer. Sponsoring
23 private parties may provide compensation and
24 benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers, pro-
25 vided that no conflict of interest arises. The

1 number, duration, and funding source of any
2 such internship, fellowship, or volunteer pro-
3 grams shall be described in the annual financial
4 report required by subsection (e).”.

5 **SEC. 205. TERMINATION.**

6 Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom
7 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking
8 “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30,
9 2021”.

10 **TITLE III—NATIONAL SECURITY**
11 **COUNCIL**

12 **SEC. 301. SPECIAL ADVISER FOR GLOBAL RELIGION EN-**
13 **GAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**
14 **FREEDOM; INTERAGENCY POLICY COMMIT-**
15 **TEES.**

16 (a) AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF
17 1947.—Section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947
18 (50 U.S.C. 3021) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (k)—

20 (A) in the first sentence—

21 (i) by striking “It is the sense of that
22 there should be” and inserting “The Presi-
23 dent shall appoint”; and

24 (ii) by striking “Special Adviser to the
25 President on International Religious Free-

1 dom, whose position should be comparable
2 to that of a director” and inserting “Spe-
3 cial Adviser for Global Religion Engage-
4 ment and International Religious Freedom,
5 whose position shall be comparable to that
6 of a senior director”; and

7 (B) by striking the second and third sen-
8 tences and inserting the following: “The Special
9 Adviser, shall assist the Ambassador at Large
10 for International Religious Freedom described
11 in section 101 of the International Religious
12 Freedom Act of 1998 to coordinate inter-
13 national religious freedom policies and global
14 religion engagement strategies throughout the
15 Executive Branch and develop policy rec-
16 ommendations and strategies relevant to the
17 programs, projects, activities of the Department
18 of Defense, the Department of Homeland Secu-
19 rity, the Department of Justice, the Depart-
20 ment of State, the Department of the Treasury,
21 and the United States Agency for International
22 Development. The Special Adviser shall serve as
23 a resource and liaison for executive branch offi-
24 cials, Congress, and nongovernmental organiza-
25 tions as appropriate on matters relating to

1 international religious freedom policy and en-
2 gagement with religious communities outside
3 the United States.”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end, the following new sub-
5 sections:

6 “(m) INTERAGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE ON INTER-
7 NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND GLOBAL RELIGION
8 ENGAGEMENT.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There should be estab-
10 lished within the National Security Council a perma-
11 nent interagency policy committee to be known as
12 the ‘Interagency Policy Committee on International
13 Religious Freedom and Global Religion Engagement’
14 (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Committee’).

15 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee should be
16 chaired by the Ambassador at Large for Religious
17 Freedom described in section 101 of the Inter-
18 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 and include
19 all appropriate executive agency officials needed to
20 carry out the functions of this Act.

21 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The Committee should de-
22 velop a global religion engagement strategy globally
23 to advance international religious freedom, develop
24 strategies to better advance international religious

1 freedom policy, and help coordinate such strategies
2 across the Executive Branch.

3 “(n) INTERAGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE ON RELI-
4 GION, INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND NA-
5 TIONAL SECURITY.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There should be estab-
7 lished within the National Security Council a perma-
8 nent interagency policy committee to be known as
9 the ‘Interagency Policy Committee on Religion,
10 International Religious Freedom, and National Secu-
11 rity’ (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Com-
12 mittee’).

13 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee should be
14 co-chaired by the Deputy National Security Advisor
15 and the Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom
16 described in section 101 of the International Reli-
17 gious Freedom Act of 1998.

18 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The Committee should ana-
19 lyze conditions and trends of international religious
20 freedom and identify potential national security risks
21 related to the absence of religious freedom globally,
22 including threats to stability from authoritarian gov-
23 ernments, terrorism, violent religious extremism, sec-
24 tarian and religiously related violence, and laws that
25 restrict religious freedom and develop strategies to

1 address such threats. In addition, the Committee
2 should coordinate policy on the intersection of reli-
3 gion, international religious freedom, and United
4 States interests in preventing terrorism, countering
5 violent extremism, and mitigating and preventing
6 conflict.”.

7 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the President should
9 promulgate regulations to carry out subsections (k), (m),
10 and (n) of section 101 of the National Security Act of
11 1947 as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

12 **TITLE IV—PRESIDENTIAL** 13 **ACTIONS**

14 **SEC. 401. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO VIOLA-** 15 **TIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

16 Section 401(b)(2) of the International Religious
17 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6441(b)(2)) is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 “(2) DEADLINE FOR ACTIONS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B), not later than 90 days after
22 the date on which each of the Annual Reports
23 is submitted under section 102(b), the Presi-
24 dent shall take 1 or more of the actions re-
25 ferred to in section 405(a) or a commensurate

1 action with respect to each foreign country and
2 violent nonstate actor that has engaged in or
3 tolerated violations of religious freedom at any
4 time since the previous such report was sub-
5 mitted.

6 “(B) **ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITE.**—The
7 President may not take any of the actions de-
8 scribed in paragraphs (9) through (15) of sec-
9 tion 405(a) or a commensurate action with re-
10 spect to a foreign country or violent nonstate
11 actor until the President certifies that the re-
12 quirements under sections 403 and 404 have
13 been satisfied with respect to such country or
14 actor.”.

15 **SEC. 402. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAR-**
16 **TICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**
17 **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

18 Section 402 of the International Religious Freedom
19 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to
23 read as follows:

24 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90
25 days after the date on which each Annual Re-

1 port is submitted under section 102(b), the
2 President shall—

3 “(i) review the status of religious free-
4 dom in each foreign country to determine
5 whether the government of that country
6 has engaged in or tolerated particularly se-
7 vere violations of religious freedom in each
8 such country during the preceding 12
9 months or longer; and

10 “(ii) designate each country the gov-
11 ernment of which has engaged in or toler-
12 ated violations described in clause (i) as a
13 country of particular concern for religious
14 freedom under section 402(b).”; and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
16 “September 1 of the respective year” and
17 inserting “the date on which each Annual
18 Report is submitted under section 102(b)”;

19 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
20 follows:

21 “(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Presi-
23 dent designates a country as a country of par-
24 ticular concern for religious freedom under
25 paragraph (1)(A), the President shall, not later

1 than 90 days after the designation is made,
2 transmit to the appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees—

4 “(i) the designation of the country,
5 signed by the President;

6 “(ii) the identification, if any, of re-
7 sponsible parties determined under para-
8 graph (2); and

9 “(iii) a description of the actions
10 taken under subsection (c), the purposes of
11 the actions taken, and the effectiveness of
12 the actions taken.

13 “(B) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—A
14 country that is designated as a country of par-
15 ticular concern for religious freedom under
16 paragraph (1)(A) shall retain such designation
17 until the President determines and reports to
18 the appropriate congressional committees that
19 the country should no longer be so designated.

20 “(C) EXPLANATION FOR NONDESIGNA-
21 TION.—If the President does not designate a
22 country as a country of particular concern for
23 religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A) after
24 the Commission has recommended such des-
25 ignation, the President shall provide an expla-

1 nation for the nondesignation to the appro-
2 priate congressional committees.”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end, the following
4 new paragraph:

5 “(4) TREATMENT OF COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL
6 WATCH LIST.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall
8 designate as a country of particular concern for
9 religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A) any
10 country that appears on the Special Watch
11 List—

12 “(i) in more than 2 consecutive An-
13 nual Reports;

14 “(ii) in any 4 Annual Reports; or

15 “(iii) in more than 1 Annual Report if
16 the President has previously designated
17 such country as a country of particular
18 concern for religious freedom under para-
19 graph (1)(A).

20 “(B) EXERCISE OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

21 The President may waive the application of
22 clauses (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) with re-
23 spect to a country for up to 2 years if the
24 President certifies to the appropriate commit-
25 tees of Congress that—

1 “(i) the country has entered into an
2 agreement with the United States to carry
3 out specific and credible actions to improve
4 religious freedom conditions and end reli-
5 gious freedom violations;

6 “(ii) the country has entered into an
7 agreement with the United Nations, the
8 European Union, or other ally of the
9 United States, to carry out specific and
10 credible actions to improve religious free-
11 dom conditions and end religious freedom
12 violations; or

13 “(iii) waiver is in the national security
14 interests of the United States.

15 “(C) EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUN-
16 TRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—The presence
17 or absence of a country from the Special Watch
18 List in any given year shall not preclude the
19 designation of such country as a country of par-
20 ticular concern for religious freedom under
21 paragraph (1)(A) in any such year.”; and

22 (2) in subsection (c)(5), in the second sentence,
23 by inserting “and include a description of the impact
24 of the designation of such sanction or sanctions that

1 exist in each country” after “determines satisfy the
2 requirements of this subsection”.

3 **SEC. 403. CONSULTATIONS.**

4 Section 403(a) of the International Religious Free-
5 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6443(a)) is amended by strik-
6 ing “As soon as practicable” and inserting “Not later than
7 90 days”.

8 **SEC. 404. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

9 Section 404(a) of the International Religious Free-
10 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6444(a)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “decides to take action under
12 section 401” and inserting “takes action under sec-
13 tion 401”;

14 (2) by striking “decides to take action under
15 paragraphs” and inserting “takes the required ac-
16 tion under paragraphs”; and

17 (3) in paragraph (4)(A)—

18 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the
19 end;

20 (B) in clause (iii), by striking the period at
21 the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following new
23 clause:

24 “(iv) the impact on other policy tools,
25 and a description of policy tools being ap-

1 plied in the country, including programs
2 that target democratic stability, economic
3 growth, and counterterrorism.”.

4 **SEC. 405. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

5 Section 407 of the International Religious Freedom
6 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6447) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, for a 180-
8 day period,” after “may waive”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that ongoing and persistent waivers for any country
13 designated as a country of particular concern for religious
14 freedom under section 402(b) for engaging in or tolerating
15 particularly severe violations of religious freedom do not
16 fulfill the purposes of this Act, and, given that promotion
17 of religious freedom is a compelling interest of United
18 States foreign policy, the President, the Secretary of
19 State, and other executive branch officials, in consultation
20 with Congress, should seek to find ways to address exist-
21 ing violations, on a country-by-country basis, through the
22 actions specified in section 405 or other commensurate ac-
23 tions, possibly including through the actions described in
24 section 605, or by some other action that addresses the

1 specific religious freedom violations of each country des-
2 ignated.”.

3 **SEC. 406. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

4 Section 409 of the International Religious Freedom
5 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6449) is amended to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 **“SEC. 409. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

8 “Any Presidential action taken under this Act with
9 respect to a foreign country shall terminate after a deter-
10 mination by the President, in consultation with the Com-
11 mission, and written certification to Congress that the for-
12 eign government has taken substantial and verifiable steps
13 to cease the particularly severe violations of religious free-
14 dom.”.

15 **SEC. 407. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING COUNTRY OF**
16 **PARTICULAR CONCERN DESIGNATION FOR**
17 **VIOLENT NONSTATE ACTORS.**

18 Title IV of the International Religious Freedom Act
19 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6441 et seq.) is amended by inserting
20 after section 405 the following new section:

21 **“SEC. 405A. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING COUNTRY**
22 **OF PARTICULAR CONCERN DESIGNATION**
23 **FOR VIOLENT NONSTATE ACTORS.**

24 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 “(1) Since 1998, various administrations have
2 made designations targeting violent nonstate actors
3 who engaged in or tolerated systematic, egregious, or
4 ongoing violations of religious freedom, such as the
5 Taliban and Serbian groups carrying on atrocities
6 against Bosnians.

7 “(2) Over the past 10 years the number of vio-
8 lent nonstate actors has increased, as have violations
9 of religious freedom perpetuated by such actors.

10 “(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It should be the pol-
11 icy of the United States Government that—

12 “(1) violent nonstate actors should be eligible
13 for designation as countries of particular concern de-
14 scribed in section 402(b) and that Presidential ac-
15 tions described in section 405, 604, or 605 of this
16 Act should be applicable to violent nonstate actors or
17 individual members of such groups; and

18 “(2) the President should include, in the report
19 to Congress required by section 404, any reasons
20 why violent nonstate actors that engaged in or toler-
21 ated restrictions on religious freedom, were not des-
22 ignated as countries of particular concern, particu-
23 larly if the Commission made a recommendation for
24 such a designation to the President and whether any
25 Presidential actions described in section 405, 604, or

1 605 were taken against violent nonstate actors or in-
2 dividual members of such groups.”.

3 **TITLE V—PROMOTION OF**
4 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

5 **SEC. 501. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREE-**
6 **DOM.**

7 Section 501 of the International Religious Freedom
8 Act of 1998 is amended by adding at the end the following
9 new subsections:

10 “(c) **AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.**—Of the amounts
11 made available for fiscal years 2016 through 2021 for the
12 Human Rights and Democracy Fund established under
13 section 664 of the Freedom Investment Act of 2002 (sub-
14 title E of title VI of Public Law 107–228), the Secretary
15 of State shall provide to the Office—

16 “(1) not less than 10 percent of such amounts
17 for each such fiscal year for the promotion of inter-
18 national religious freedom through—

19 “(A) groups that are able to develop legal
20 protections or promote cultural and societal un-
21 derstanding of international norms of religious
22 freedom;

23 “(B) groups that seek to address and miti-
24 gate religiously motivated and sectarian violence
25 and combat violent extremism; and

1 “(C) those seeking to strengthen investiga-
2 tions, reporting and monitoring of religious
3 freedom violations; and

4 “(2) not less than 2 percent of such amounts
5 for each such fiscal year for the Religious Freedom
6 Defense Fund established under subsection (d).

7 “(d) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DEFENSE FUND.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
9 the Department of State a fund to be known as the
10 ‘Religious Freedom Defense Fund’ (referred to in
11 this subsection as the ‘Fund’) which shall be admin-
12 istered by the Ambassador at Large.

13 “(2) AMOUNTS.—The Fund shall consist of
14 amounts made available under subsection (c)(2).

15 “(3) USE OF FUND.—The Ambassador at
16 Large shall use amounts in the Fund to issue grants
17 for the following:

18 “(A) Victims of religious freedom abuses
19 and their families to cover legal and other ex-
20 penses that may arise from detention, imprison-
21 ment, torture, fines, and other restrictions.

22 “(B) Projects to help create and support
23 training of a new generation of defenders of re-
24 ligious freedom, including legal and political ad-
25 vocates, and civil society projects which seek to

1 create advocacy networks, strengthen legal rep-
2 resentation, train and educate new religious
3 freedom defenders, and build the capacity of re-
4 ligious communities and rights defenders to
5 protect against religious freedom violations,
6 mitigate societal or sectarian violence, or mini-
7 mize legal or other restrictions of the right to
8 the freedom of religion.

9 “(4) PREFERENCE.—In issuing grants under
10 paragraph (3), the Ambassador at Large shall, as
11 appropriate, give preference to projects targeting re-
12 ligious freedom violations in countries designated as
13 countries of particular concern for religious freedom
14 under section 402(b) and those included on the Spe-
15 cial Watch List.

16 “(e) CONSULTATION.—The Ambassador at Large
17 should consult, in developing priorities and policies for dis-
18 bursing the funds referred to in subsection (c), including
19 grant policies and the identification of potential grantees,
20 with other Federal agencies, including the Commission,
21 and the International Republican Institute, the National
22 Democratic Institute, the National Endowment for De-
23 mocracy and, as appropriate, other nongovernmental orga-
24 nizations.”.

1 **TITLE VI—REFUGEE, ASYLUM,**
2 **AND CONSULAR MATTERS**

3 **SEC. 601. ACTIONS AGAINST PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR**
4 **COMMITTING PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLA-**
5 **TIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**
6 **DOM.**

7 Title VI of the International Religious Freedom Act
8 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6471 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606;
10 and

11 (2) by inserting after section 604 the following
12 new section:

13 **“SEC. 605. ACTIONS AGAINST PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR**
14 **ENGAGING IN OR TOLERATING PARTICU-**
15 **LARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF INTER-**
16 **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

17 “(a) AUTHORITY TO SANCTION PERSONS RESPON-
18 SIBLE FOR ENGAGING IN OR TOLERATING PARTICULARLY
19 SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
20 FREEDOM.—Notwithstanding section 202 of the Inter-
21 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
22 1701), the President may exercise the authority specified
23 in section 203 of such Act with respect to—

24 “(1) any foreign person that the President de-
25 termines, based on credible evidence, plays a role in

1 committing, ordering, sponsoring, or materially sup-
2 porting systemic, egregious, and ongoing violations
3 of religious freedom; or

4 “(2) any foreign person that the President de-
5 termines to be providing material or other assistance
6 supporting violence or terrorist acts targeting mem-
7 bers of religious groups.

8 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IDENTIFICATION AND
9 SANCTION OF PERSONS ENGAGING IN OR TOLERATING
10 PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL
11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon exercising the au-
13 thority described in subsection (a) with respect to a
14 foreign person, the President shall submit to the ap-
15 propriate congressional committees a report—

16 “(A) identifying the foreign persons that
17 the President determines to be subject to action
18 under subsection (a) and the basis for such de-
19 termination; and

20 “(B) describing the actions carried out
21 against such foreign persons pursuant to sub-
22 section (a).

23 “(2) REPORT ON REMOVAL OF SANCTIONS.—
24 Upon suspending or terminating any action imposed
25 on a person under the authority of subsection (a),

1 the President shall submit to the appropriate con-
2 gressional committees written notification of such
3 suspension or termination.

4 “(3) SUBMISSION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMA-
5 TION.—Reports submitted under this subsection
6 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
7 contain a classified annex.

8 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
10 MITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional
11 committees’ means—

12 “(i) the Committee on Financial Serv-
13 ices and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
14 of the House of Representatives; and

15 “(ii) the Committee on Banking,
16 Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Com-
17 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

18 “(B) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘for-
19 eign person’ means a person that is not a
20 United States person.

21 “(C) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means
22 an individual or entity.

23 “(D) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
24 ‘United States person’ means—

1 “(i) a United States citizen or an
2 alien lawfully admitted for permanent resi-
3 dence to the United States; or

4 “(ii) an entity organized under the
5 laws of the United States or of any juris-
6 diction within the United States, including
7 a foreign branch of such entity.”.

8 **TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS** 9 **PROVISIONS**

10 **SEC. 701. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

11 Title VII of the International Religious Freedom Act
12 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6481 et seq.) is amended by adding
13 at the end the following new sections:

14 **“SEC. 702. CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED STATES INSTI-** 15 **TUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE** 16 **THE UNITED STATES.**

17 “(a) **FINDING.**—Congress recognizes the enduring
18 importance of United States institutions of higher edu-
19 cation worldwide both for their potential for shaping posi-
20 tive leadership and new educational models in host coun-
21 tries and for their emphasis on teaching universally recog-
22 nized rights of free inquiry and academic freedom.

23 “(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that United States institutions of higher education
25 operating campuses outside the United States or estab-

1 lishing any educational entities with foreign governments,
2 particularly with or in countries the governments of which
3 engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom
4 as identified in the Annual Report and the annual report
5 of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China,
6 should adopt a code of conduct—

7 “(1) upholding the right of freedom of religion
8 of their employees and students, including the right
9 to manifest that religion peacefully as protected in
10 international law;

11 “(2) ensuring that the religious views and
12 peaceful practice of religion in no way affect, or be
13 allowed to affect, the status of a worker’s or faculty
14 member’s employment or a student’s enrollment; and

15 “(3) affirming that all negotiations, contracts,
16 or memoranda of understanding engaged in or con-
17 structed with a foreign government to establish any
18 educational entity, shall be open, transparent, and
19 made available for public inspection before conclu-
20 sion and that any such agreement shall affirm, at all
21 times, academic freedom and universal rights to the
22 freedoms of religion, speech, assembly, and associa-
23 tion.

1 **“SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NATIONAL SE-**
2 **CURITY STRATEGY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS**
3 **FREEDOM THROUGH UNITED STATES FOR-**
4 **EIGN POLICY.**

5 “It is the sense of Congress that—

6 “(1) the annual national security strategy re-
7 port of the President required by section 108 of the
8 National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043)
9 should promote international religious freedom as a
10 foreign policy and national security priority and
11 should articulate that promotion of the right to free-
12 dom of religion is a strategy that protects other, re-
13 lated human rights, and advances democracy outside
14 the United States, and make clear its importance to
15 United States foreign policy goals of stability, secu-
16 rity, development, and diplomacy; and

17 “(2) the national security strategy report
18 should be a guide for the strategies and activities of
19 relevant Federal agencies and inform the Depart-
20 ment of Defense quadrennial defense review under
21 section 118 of title 10, United States Code, and the
22 Department of State Quadrennial Diplomacy and
23 Development Review.”.

24 **SEC. 702. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

25 The table of contents of the International Religious
26 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 note) is amended—

1 (1) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
2 tion 405 the following:

“Sec. 405A. Statement of policy regarding country of particular concern designation for violent nonstate actors.”;

3 (2) by striking the item relating to section 605
4 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 606. Studies on the effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum claims.”;

5 (3) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
6 tion 604 the following:

“Sec. 605. Actions against persons responsible for committing particularly severe violations of international religious freedom.”;

7 and

8 (4) by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 702. Codes of conduct for United States institutions of higher education operating outside the United States.

“Sec. 703. Sense of Congress regarding national security strategy to promote religious freedom through United States foreign policy.”.

○