

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6482

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey 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

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## 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; policy; sense of Congress.
- 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.
- Sec. 104. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

- Sec. 201. Special Adviser for International Religious Freedom.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

- Sec. 301. Non-state actor designations.
- Sec. 302. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
- Sec. 303. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 304. Presidential waiver.
- Sec. 305. Publication in the Federal Register.

TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 401. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.

TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY  
SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 501. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 601. Miscellaneous provisions.
- Sec. 602. Clerical amendments.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(a) of the International Re-  
8 ligious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) is  
9 amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “The free-  
2       dom of thought, conscience, and religion is under-  
3       stood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs and  
4       the right not to profess or practice any religion.” be-  
5       fore “Governments”;

6           (2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the  
7       following: “A policy or practice of routinely denying  
8       applications for visas for religious workers in a coun-  
9       try can be indicative of a poor state of religious free-  
10      dom in that country.”; and

11          (3) in paragraph (6)—

12               (A) by inserting “and the specific targeting  
13              of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because  
14              of their beliefs” after “religious persecution”;  
15              and

16               (B) by inserting “and in regions where  
17              non-state actors exercise significant political  
18              power and territorial control” before the period  
19              at the end.

20          (b) POLICY.—Section 2(b) of the International Reli-  
21      gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(b)) is amend-  
22      ed—

23               (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through  
24              (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E);

1           (2) by striking the matter preceding subpara-  
2       graph (A), as redesignated, and inserting the fol-  
3       lowing:

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The following shall be the  
5       policy of the United States:”; and

6           (3) by adding at the end the following:

7           “(2) EVOLVING POLICIES AND COORDINATED  
8       DIPLOMATIC RESPONSES.—Because the promotion of  
9       international religious freedom protects human  
10      rights, advances democracy abroad, and advances  
11      United States interests in stability, security, and de-  
12      velopment globally, the promotion of international  
13      religious freedom requires new and evolving policies  
14      and diplomatic responses that—

15           “(A) are drawn from the expertise of the  
16      national security agencies, the diplomatic serv-  
17      ices, and other governmental agencies and non-  
18      governmental organizations; and

19           “(B) are coordinated across and carried  
20      out by the entire range of Federal agencies.”.

21      (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
22      gress that—

23           (1) a policy or practice by the government of  
24      any foreign country of routinely denying visa appli-

1 cations for religious workers can be indicative of a  
2 poor state of religious freedom in that country; and  
3 (2) the United States Government should seek  
4 to reverse any such policy by reviewing the entirety  
5 of the bilateral relationship between such country  
6 and the United States.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

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

10 (1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as para-  
11 graph (16);

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (11), and  
13 (12) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (14), respec-  
14 tively;

15 (3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
18 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
19 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-  
20 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

21 “(11) NON-STATE ACTOR.—The term ‘non-state  
22 actor’ means a nonsovereign entity that—

23 “(A) exercises significant political power  
24 and territorial control;

1 “(B) is outside the control of a sovereign  
2 government; and

3 “(C) often employs violence in pursuit of  
4 its objectives.”;

5 (4) by inserting after paragraph (14), as redes-  
6 ignated, the following:

7 “(15) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—The term ‘Spe-  
8 cial Watch List’ means the Special Watch List de-  
9 scribed in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii).”; and

10 (5) in paragraph (16), as redesignated—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (i) by redesignating clauses (iv) and  
13 (v) as clauses (v) and (vi), respectively;  
14 and

15 (ii) by inserting after clause (iii) the  
16 following:

17 “(iv) not professing a particular reli-  
18 gion, or any religion;”; and

19 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

20 (i) by inserting “conscience, non-the-  
21 istic views, or” before “religious belief or  
22 practice”; and

23 (ii) by inserting “forcibly compelling  
24 non-believers or non-theists to recant their

1 beliefs or to convert,” after “forced reli-  
 2 gious conversion,”.

## 3 **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF** 4 **STATE ACTIVITIES**

5 **SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
 6 **DOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTER-**  
 7 **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the International  
 9 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is  
 10 amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, and shall  
 12 report directly to the Secretary of State” before the  
 13 period at the end;

14 (2) in subsection (c)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) by striking “responsibility” and in-  
 17 serting “responsibilities”;

18 (ii) by striking “shall be to advance”  
 19 and inserting the following: “shall be to—  
 20 “(A) advance”;

21 (iii) in subparagraph (A), as redesign-  
 22 nated, by striking the period at the end  
 23 and inserting “; and”; and

24 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
 25 lowing:

1           “(B) integrate United States international  
2 religious freedom policies and strategies into  
3 the foreign policy efforts of the United States.”;

4           (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the  
5 principal adviser to” before “the Secretary of  
6 State”;

7           (C) in paragraph (3)—

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

10               (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
11 the period at the end and inserting “;  
12 and”; and

13               (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
14 lowing:

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

19           (D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
20 paragraph (5); and

21           (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the  
22 following:

23           “(4) COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES.—In  
24 order to promote religious freedom as an interest of

1 United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at  
2 Large—

3 “(A) shall coordinate international reli-  
4 gious freedom policies across all programs,  
5 projects, and activities of the United States;  
6 and

7 “(B) should participate in any interagency  
8 processes on issues in which the promotion of  
9 international religious freedom policy can ad-  
10 vance United States national security interests,  
11 including in democracy promotion, stability, se-  
12 curity, and development globally.”; and

13 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the  
14 Office” and all that follows and inserting “appro-  
15 priate staff for the Office, including full-time equiva-  
16 lent positions and other temporary staff positions  
17 needed to compile, edit, and manage the Annual Re-  
18 port under the direct supervision of the Ambassador  
19 at Large, and for the conduct of investigations by  
20 the Office and for necessary travel to carry out this  
21 Act. The Secretary of State should provide the Am-  
22 bassador at Large with sufficient funding to carry  
23 out the duties described in this section, including, as  
24 necessary, representation funds. On the date on  
25 which the President’s annual budget request is sub-

1       mitted to Congress, the Secretary shall submit an  
 2       annual report to the appropriate congressional com-  
 3       mittees that includes a report on staffing levels for  
 4       the International Religious Freedom Office.”.

5       (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
 6       gress that maintaining an adequate staffing level at the  
 7       Office, such as was in place during fiscal year 2016, is  
 8       necessary for the Office to carry out its important work.

9       **SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**  
 10       **FREEDOM.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(b)(1) of the Inter-  
 12       national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
 13       6412(b)(1)) is amended—

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

16               (2) in subparagraph (A)—

17                       (A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and  
 18                       inserting “as well as the routine denial of visa  
 19                       applications for religious workers;”;

20                       (B) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause  
 21                       (vii); and

22                       (C) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-  
 23       lowing:

24                               “(iv) particularly severe violations of  
 25                               religious freedom in that country if such

1 country does not have a functioning gov-  
2 ernment or the government of such coun-  
3 try does not control its territory;

4 “(v) the identification of prisoners, to  
5 the extent possible, in that country pursu-  
6 ant to section 108(d);

7 “(vi) any action taken by the govern-  
8 ment of that country to censor religious  
9 content, communications, or worship activi-  
10 ties online, including descriptions of the  
11 targeted religious group, the content, com-  
12 munication, or activities censored, and the  
13 means used; and”;

14 (3) in subparagraph (B), in the matter pre-  
15 ceding clause (i)—

16 (A) by inserting “persecution of lawyers,  
17 politicians, or other human rights advocates  
18 seeking to defend the rights of members of reli-  
19 gious groups or highlight religious freedom vio-  
20 lations, prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter  
21 or male infant circumcision,” after “entire reli-  
22 gions,”; and

23 (B) by inserting “policies that ban or re-  
24 strict the public manifestation of religious belief  
25 and the peaceful involvement of religious groups

1 or their members in the political life of each  
2 such foreign country,” after “such groups,”;

3 (4) in subparagraph (C), by striking “A de-  
4 scription of United States actions and” and insert-  
5 ing “A detailed description of United States actions,  
6 diplomatic and political coordination efforts, and  
7 other”; and

8 (5) in subparagraph (F)(i)—

9 (A) by striking “section 402(b)(1)” and in-  
10 serting “section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii)”; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following:

12 “Any country in which a non-state actor des-  
13 ignated as an entity of particular concern for  
14 religious freedom under section 301 of the  
15 Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom  
16 Act is located shall be included in this section  
17 of the report.”.

18 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
19 gress that—

20 (1) the original intent of the International Reli-  
21 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.)  
22 was to require annual reports from both the Depart-  
23 ment of State and the Commission on International  
24 Religious Freedom to be delivered each year, during  
25 the same calendar year, and with at least 5 months

1 separating these reports, in order to provide updated  
 2 information for policymakers, Members of Congress,  
 3 and nongovernmental organizations; and

4 (2) given that the annual Country Reports on  
 5 Human Rights Practices no longer contain updated  
 6 information on religious freedom conditions globally,  
 7 it is important that the Department of State coordi-  
 8 nate with the Commission to fulfill the original in-  
 9 tent of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
 10 1998.

11 **SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

12 (a) AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF  
 13 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980  
 14 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),  
 17 and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), re-  
 18 spectively;

19 (B) by striking “(a) The Secretary of  
 20 State” and inserting the following:

21 “(a) HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND  
 22 HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State”;  
 24 and

25 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(2) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the  
3 training required under paragraph (1)(B), the  
4 Director of the George P. Shultz National For-  
5 eign Affairs Training Center shall, not later  
6 than the one year after the date of the enact-  
7 ment of the Frank R. Wolf International Reli-  
8 gious Freedom Act, conduct training on reli-  
9 gious freedom for all Foreign Service officers,  
10 including all entry level officers, all officers  
11 prior to departure for posting outside the  
12 United States, and all outgoing deputy chiefs of  
13 mission and ambassadors. Such training shall  
14 be included in—

15 “(i) the A-100 course attended by all  
16 Foreign Service officers;

17 “(ii) the courses required of every  
18 Foreign Service officer prior to a posting  
19 outside the United States, with segments  
20 tailored to the particular religious demog-  
21 raphy, religious freedom conditions, and  
22 United States strategies for advancing reli-  
23 gious freedom, in each receiving country;  
24 and

1                   “(iii) the courses required of all out-  
2                   going deputy chiefs of mission and ambas-  
3                   sadors.

4                   “(B) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—In  
5                   carrying out the training required under para-  
6                   graph (1)(B), the Ambassador at Large for  
7                   International Religious Freedom, in coordina-  
8                   tion with the Director of the George P. Shultz  
9                   National Foreign Affairs Training Center and  
10                  other Federal officials, as appropriate, and in  
11                  consultation with the United States Commission  
12                  on International Religious Freedom established  
13                  under section 201(a) of the International Reli-  
14                  gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
15                  6431(a)), shall make recommendations to the  
16                  Secretary of State regarding a curriculum for  
17                  the training of United States Foreign Service  
18                  officers under paragraph (1)(B) on the scope  
19                  and strategic value of international religious  
20                  freedom, how violations of international reli-  
21                  gious freedom harm fundamental United States  
22                  interests, how the advancement of international  
23                  religious freedom can advance such interests,  
24                  how United States international religious free-  
25                  dom policy should be carried out in practice by

1 United States diplomats and other Foreign  
2 Service officers, and the relevance and relation-  
3 ship of international religious freedom to  
4 United States defense, diplomacy, development,  
5 and public affairs efforts. The Secretary of  
6 State should ensure the availability of sufficient  
7 resources to develop and implement such cur-  
8 riculum.

9 “(C) INFORMATION SHARING.—The cur-  
10 riculum and training materials developed under  
11 this paragraph shall be shared with the United  
12 States Armed Forces and other Federal depart-  
13 ments and agencies with personnel who are sta-  
14 tioned overseas, as appropriate, to provide  
15 training on—

16 “(i) United States religious freedom  
17 policies;

18 “(ii) religious traditions;

19 “(iii) religious engagement strategies;

20 “(iv) religious and cultural issues; and

21 “(v) efforts to counter violent religious  
22 extremism.”;

23 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “The Sec-  
24 retary of State” and inserting “REFUGEES.—The  
25 Secretary of State”; and

1           (3) in subsection (c), by striking “The Sec-  
2       retary of State” and inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS.—  
3       The Secretary of State”.

4       (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with  
6 the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for Inter-  
7 national Religious Freedom, and the Director of the For-  
8 eign Service Institute, located at the George P. Shultz Na-  
9 tional Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall submit a re-  
10 port to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House  
11 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
12 tions of the Senate that contains a plan for undertaking  
13 training for Foreign Service officers under section 708 of  
14 the Foreign Services Act of 1980, as amended by sub-  
15 section (a).

16 **SEC. 104. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELI-**  
17 **GIUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.**

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

20           (1) in subsection (b), by striking “faith,” and  
21       inserting “activities, religious freedom advocacy, or  
22       efforts to protect and advance the universally recog-  
23       nized right to the freedom of religion,”;

24           (2) in subsection (c), by striking “, as appro-  
25       priate, provide” and inserting “make available”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE UNITED  
3 STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS  
4 FREEDOM.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
6 make publicly available, to the extent practicable,  
7 online and in official publications, lists of persons it  
8 determines are imprisoned or detained, have dis-  
9 appeared, been placed under house arrest, been tor-  
10 tured, or subjected to forced renunciations of faith  
11 for their religious activity or religious freedom advo-  
12 cacy by the government of a foreign country that the  
13 Commission recommends for designation as a coun-  
14 try of particular concern for religious freedom under  
15 section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) or by a non-state actor that  
16 the Commission recommends for designation as an  
17 entity of particular concern for religious freedom  
18 under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf Inter-  
19 national Religious Freedom Act and include as much  
20 publicly available information as practicable on the  
21 conditions and circumstances of such persons.

22 “(2) DISCRETION.—In compiling lists under  
23 paragraph (1), the Commission shall exercise all ap-  
24 propriate discretion, including consideration of the  
25 safety and security of, and benefit to, the persons

1       who may be included on the lists and the families of  
2       such persons.”.

3       **TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY**  
4       **COUNCIL**

5       **SEC. 201. SPECIAL ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELI-**  
6       **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

7       The position described in section 101(k) of the Na-  
8       tional Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021(k)) should  
9       assist the Ambassador at Large for International Reli-  
10      gious Freedom to coordinate international religious free-  
11      dom policies and strategies throughout the executive  
12      branch and within any interagency policy committee of  
13      which the Ambassador at Large is a member.

14      **TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL**  
15      **ACTIONS**

16      **SEC. 301. NON-STATE ACTOR DESIGNATIONS.**

17      (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, concurrent with  
18      the annual foreign country review required under section  
19      402(b)(1)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act  
20      of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)), shall—

21              (1) review and identify any non-state actors op-  
22              erating in any such reviewed country or surrounding  
23              region that have engaged in particularly severe viola-  
24              tions of religious freedom; and

1           (2) designate, in a manner consistent with such  
2       Act, each such non-state actor as an entity of par-  
3       ticular concern for religious freedom.

4       (b) REPORT.—Whenever the President designates a  
5       non-state actor under subsection (a) as an entity of par-  
6       ticular concern for religious freedom, the President, as  
7       soon as practicable after the designation is made, shall  
8       submit a report to the appropriate congressional commit-  
9       tees that describes the reasons for such designation.

10       (c) ACTIONS.—The President should take specific ac-  
11       tions, when practicable, to address severe violations of reli-  
12       gious freedom of non-state actors that are designated  
13       under subsection (a)(2).

14       (d) DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL REPORT.—The  
15       Secretary of State should include information detailing the  
16       reasons the President designated a non-state actor as an  
17       entity of particular concern for religious freedom under  
18       subsection (a) in the Annual Report required under sec-  
19       tion 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act  
20       of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)).

21       (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
22       gress that—

23           (1) the Secretary of State should work with  
24       Congress and the U.S. Commission on International  
25       Religious Freedom—

1 (A) to create new political, financial, and  
2 diplomatic tools to address severe violations of  
3 religious freedom by non-state actors; and

4 (B) to update the actions the President  
5 can take under section 405 of the International  
6 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
7 6445);

8 (2) governments must ultimately be held ac-  
9 countable for the abuses that occur in their terri-  
10 tories; and

11 (3) any actions the President takes after desig-  
12 nating a non-state actor as an entity of particular  
13 concern should also involve high-level diplomacy with  
14 the government of the country in which the non-  
15 state actor is operating.

16 (f) DETERMINATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—

17 In order to appropriately target Presidential actions under  
18 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22  
19 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), the President, with respect to each  
20 non-state actor designated as an entity of particular con-  
21 cern for religious freedom under subsection (a), shall seek  
22 to determine, to the extent practicable, the specific offi-  
23 cials or members that are responsible for the particularly  
24 severe violations of religious freedom engaged in or toler-  
25 ated by such non-state actor.

1 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “appro-  
 2 priate congressional committees”, “non-state actor”, and  
 3 “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” have  
 4 the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Inter-  
 5 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
 6 6402), as amended by section 3 of this Act.

7 **SEC. 302. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAR-**  
 8 **TICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
 9 **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

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

12 (1) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
 15 read as follows:

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90  
 17 days after the date on which each Annual Re-  
 18 port is submitted under section 102(b), the  
 19 President shall—

20 “(i) review the status of religious free-  
 21 dom in each foreign country to determine  
 22 whether the government of that country  
 23 has engaged in or tolerated particularly se-  
 24 vere violations of religious freedom in each

1 such country during the preceding 12  
2 months or longer;

3 “(ii) designate each country the gov-  
4 ernment of which has engaged in or toler-  
5 ated violations described in clause (i) as a  
6 country of particular concern for religious  
7 freedom; and

8 “(iii) designate each country that en-  
9 gaged in or tolerated severe violations of  
10 religious freedom during the previous year,  
11 but does not meet, in the opinion of the  
12 President at the time of publication of the  
13 Annual Report, all of the criteria described  
14 in section 3(15) for designation under  
15 clause (ii) as being placed on a ‘Special  
16 Watch List’.”; and

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

22 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
23 follows:

24 “(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Presi-  
2           dent designates a country as a country of par-  
3           ticular concern for religious freedom under  
4           paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the President, not later  
5           than 90 days after such designation, shall sub-  
6           mit to the appropriate congressional commit-  
7           tees—

8                   “(i) the designation of the country,  
9                   signed by the President;

10                   “(ii) the identification, if any, of re-  
11                   sponsible parties determined under para-  
12                   graph (2); and

13                   “(iii) a description of the actions  
14                   taken under subsection (c), the purposes of  
15                   the actions taken, and the effectiveness of  
16                   the actions taken.

17           “(B) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—A  
18           country that is designated as a country of par-  
19           ticular concern for religious freedom under  
20           paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall retain such designa-  
21           tion until the President determines and reports  
22           to the appropriate congressional committees  
23           that the country should no longer be so des-  
24           ignated.”; and

25           (C) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(4) EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUNTRY OF  
2       PARTICULAR CONCERN.—The presence or absence of  
3       a country from the Special Watch List in any given  
4       year shall not preclude the designation of such coun-  
5       try as a country of particular concern for religious  
6       freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) in any such  
7       year.”; and

8           (2) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “the Presi-  
9       dent must designate the specific sanction or sanc-  
10      tions which he determines satisfy the requirements  
11      of this subsection.” and inserting “the President  
12      shall designate the specific sanction or sanctions  
13      that the President determines satisfy the require-  
14      ments under this subsection and include a descrip-  
15      tion of the impact of such sanction or sanctions on  
16      each country.”.

17 **SEC. 303. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

18       Section 404(a)(4)(A) of the International Religious  
19       Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6444(a)(4)(A)) is  
20       amended—

21           (1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

22           (2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the  
23       end and inserting “; and”; and

24           (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) the impact on the advancement of United States interests in democracy, human rights, and security, and a description of policy tools being applied in the country, including programs that target democratic stability, economic growth, and counterterrorism.”.

**SEC. 304. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(B) by inserting “, for a single, 180-day period,” after “may waive”;

(C) by striking paragraph (1); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.**—Subject to subsection (c), the President may waive, for any additional specified period of time after the 180-day period described

1 in subsection (a), the application of any of the actions de-  
2 scribed in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a)  
3 (or a commensurate substitute action) with respect to a  
4 country, if the President determines and reports to the  
5 appropriate congressional committees that—

6 “(1) the respective foreign government has  
7 ceased the violations giving rise to the Presidential  
8 action; or

9 “(2) the important national interest of the  
10 United States requires the exercise of such waiver  
11 authority.”;

12 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated, by insert-  
13 ing “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”; and

14 (5) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
16 gress that—

17 “(1) ongoing and persistent waivers of the ap-  
18 plication of any of the actions described in para-  
19 graphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or com-  
20 mensurate substitute action) with respect to a coun-  
21 try do not fulfill the purposes of this Act; and

22 “(2) because the promotion of religious freedom  
23 is an important interest of United States foreign  
24 policy, the President, the Secretary of State, and  
25 other executive branch officials, in consultation with

1 Congress, should seek to find ways to address exist-  
2 ing violations, on a case-by-case basis, through the  
3 actions described in section 405 or other commensu-  
4 rate substitute action.”.

5 **SEC. 305. PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.**

6 Section 408(a)(1) of the International Religious  
7 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6448(a)(1)) is amended  
8 by adding at the end the following: “Any designation of  
9 a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for  
10 religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf  
11 International Religious Freedom Act and, if applicable  
12 and to the extent practicable, the identities of individuals  
13 determined to be responsible for violations described in  
14 subsection (f) of such section.”.

15 **TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF**  
16 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

17 **SEC. 401. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
18 **DOM.**

19 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense  
20 of Congress that for each fiscal year that begins on or  
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President  
22 should request sufficient appropriations from Congress to  
23 support—

24 (1) the vigorous promotion of international reli-  
25 gious freedom and for projects to advance United

1 States interests in the protection and advancement  
2 of international religious freedom, in particular,  
3 through grants to groups that—

4 (A) are capable of developing legal protec-  
5 tions or promoting cultural and societal under-  
6 standing of international norms of religious  
7 freedom;

8 (B) seek to address and mitigate reli-  
9 giously motivated and sectarian violence and  
10 combat violent extremism; or

11 (C) seek to strengthen investigations, re-  
12 porting, and monitoring of religious freedom  
13 violations, including genocide perpetrated  
14 against religious minorities; and

15 (2) the establishment of an effective Religious  
16 Freedom Defense Fund, to be administered by the  
17 Ambassador at Large for International Religious  
18 Freedom, to provide grants for—

19 (A) victims of religious freedom abuses and  
20 their families to cover legal and other expenses  
21 that may arise from detention, imprisonment,  
22 torture, fines, and other restrictions; and

23 (B) projects to help create and support  
24 training of a new generation of defenders of re-  
25 ligious freedom, including legal and political ad-

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

10       (b) PREFERENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that,  
11   in providing grants under subsection (a), the Ambassador  
12   at Large for International Religious Freedom should, as  
13   appropriate, give preference to projects targeting religious  
14   freedom violations in countries—

15           (1) designated as countries of particular con-  
16   cern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1) of  
17   the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998  
18   (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)); or

19           (2) included on the Special Watch List de-  
20   scribed in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the Inter-  
21   national Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as added  
22   by section 302(1)(A)(i) of this Act.

23       (c) ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATIONS.—

24           (1) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made avail-  
25   able under subsection (a) shall be administered by

1 the Ambassador at Large for International Religious  
2 Freedom.

3 (2) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing priorities  
4 and policies for providing grants authorized under  
5 subsection (a), including programming and policy,  
6 the Ambassador at Large for International Religious  
7 Freedom should consult with other Federal agencies,  
8 including the United States Commission on Inter-  
9 national Religious Freedom and, as appropriate,  
10 nongovernmental organizations.

11 **TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS**  
12 **LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SE-**  
13 **VERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
14 **GIOUS FREEDOM**

15 **SEC. 501. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY**  
16 **SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
17 **DOM.**

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

20 (1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606;  
21 and

22 (2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

1 **“SEC. 605. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY**  
2 **SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
3 **DOM.**

4 “(a) LIST.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in  
6 coordination with the Ambassador at Large and in  
7 consultation with relevant government and non-  
8 government experts, shall establish and maintain a  
9 list of foreign individuals to whom a consular post  
10 has denied a visa on the grounds of particularly se-  
11 vere violations of religious freedom under section  
12 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality  
13 Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)), or who are subject to  
14 financial sanctions or other measures for particularly  
15 severe violations of freedom of religion.

16 “(2) REFERENCE.—The list required under  
17 paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘Designated  
18 Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of  
19 Religious Freedom’.

20 “(b) REPORT.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State  
22 shall submit a report to the appropriate congres-  
23 sional committees that contains the list required  
24 under subsection (a), including, with respect to each  
25 foreign individual on the list—

1           “(A) the name of the individual and a de-  
2           scription of the particularly severe violation of  
3           religious freedom committed by the individual;

4           “(B) the name of the country or other lo-  
5           cation in which such violation took place; and

6           “(C) a description of the actions taken  
7           pursuant to this Act or any other Act or Execu-  
8           tive order in response to such violation.

9           “(2) SUBMISSION AND UPDATES.—The Sec-  
10          retary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-  
11          gressional committees—

12           “(A) the initial report required under para-  
13          graph (1) not later than 180 days after the  
14          date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf  
15          International Religious Freedom Act; and

16           “(B) updates to the report every 180 days  
17          thereafter and as new information becomes  
18          available.

19           “(3) FORM.—The report required under para-  
20          graph (1) should be submitted in unclassified form  
21          but may contain a classified annex.

22           “(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
23          ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

24           “(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
25          of the Senate;

1 “(B) the Committee on Appropriations of  
2 the Senate;

3 “(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing,  
4 and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

5 “(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
6 the House of Representatives;

7 “(E) the Committee on Appropriations of  
8 the House of Representatives; and

9 “(F) the Committee on Financial Services  
10 of the House of Representatives.”.

## 11 **TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS** 12 **PROVISIONS**

### 13 **SEC. 601. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

14 Title VII of the International Religious Freedom Act  
15 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6481 et seq.) is amended by adding  
16 at the end the following:

### 17 **“SEC. 702. VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED** 18 **STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-** 19 **CATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

20 “(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the enduring  
21 importance of United States institutions of higher edu-  
22 cation worldwide—

23 “(1) for their potential for shaping positive  
24 leadership and new educational models in host coun-  
25 tries; and

1           “(2) for their emphasis on teaching universally  
2       recognized rights of free inquiry and academic free-  
3       dom.

4       “(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
5       gress that United States institutions of higher education  
6       operating campuses outside the United States or estab-  
7       lishing any educational entities with foreign governments,  
8       particularly with or in countries the governments of which  
9       engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom  
10      as identified in the Annual Report, should seek to adopt  
11      a voluntary code of conduct for operating in such countries  
12      that should—

13           “(1) uphold the right of freedom of religion of  
14      their employees and students, including the right to  
15      manifest that religion peacefully as protected in  
16      international law;

17           “(2) ensure that the religious views and peace-  
18      ful practice of religion in no way affect, or be al-  
19      lowed to affect, the status of a worker’s or faculty  
20      member’s employment or a student’s enrollment; and

21           “(3) make every effort in all negotiations, con-  
22      tracts, or memoranda of understanding engaged in  
23      or constructed with a foreign government to protect  
24      academic freedom and the rights enshrined in the  
25      United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

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 the annual national  
6 security strategy report of the President required under  
7 section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50  
8 U.S.C. 3043)—

9 “(1) should promote international religious free-  
10 dom as a foreign policy and national security pri-  
11 ority; and

12 “(2) should articulate that promotion of the  
13 right to freedom of religion is a strategy that—

14 “(A) protects other, related human rights,  
15 and advances democracy outside the United  
16 States; and

17 “(B) makes clear its importance to United  
18 States foreign policy goals of stability, security,  
19 development, and diplomacy;

20 “(3) should be a guide for the strategies and  
21 activities of relevant Federal agencies; and

22 “(4) should inform the Department of Defense  
23 quadrennial defense review under section 118 of title  
24 10, United States Code, and the Department of  
25 State Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Re-  
26 view.”.

1   **SEC. 602. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

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

4                   (1) by striking the item relating to section 605  
5           and inserting the following:

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

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

          “Sec. 605. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Reli-  
          gious Freedom.”;

8           and

9                   (3) by adding at the end the following:

          “Sec. 702. Voluntary 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.”.

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