

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4237

To prohibit United States assistance to foreign countries that oppose the position of the United States in the United Nations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

Mr. GOHMERT (for himself and Mr. KING of Iowa) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit United States assistance to foreign countries that oppose the position of the United States in the United Nations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United Nations Voting
5 Accountability Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES THAT**
2 **OPPOSE THE POSITION OF THE UNITED**
3 **STATES IN THE UNITED NATIONS.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—United States assistance may not
5 be provided to a country that opposed the position of the
6 United States in the United Nations.

7 (b) EXEMPTION DUE TO CHANGE IN GOVERN-
8 MENT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may
10 exempt a country from the prohibition described in
11 subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that since
12 the beginning of the most recent session of the Gen-
13 eral Assembly—

14 (A) there has been a fundamental change
15 in the leadership and policies of the government
16 of a country to which the prohibition in such
17 subsection applies; and

18 (B) as a result of such change, the govern-
19 ment of such country will no longer oppose the
20 position of the United States in the United Na-
21 tions.

22 (2) DURATION OF EXEMPTION.—An exemption
23 under paragraph (1) shall be effective only until sub-
24 mission of the next report required under section
25 406 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fis-
26 cal Years 1990 and 1991 (22 U.S.C. 2414a) that is

1 submitted after the Secretary of State makes such
2 an exemption.

3 (3) NOTIFICATION AND DISCUSSION.—The Sec-
4 retary of State shall notify Congress with respect to
5 an exemption made under paragraph (1), together
6 with a discussion of the basis for the Secretary’s de-
7 termination with respect to each such exemption.

8 (c) EXEMPTION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY INTER-
9 ESTS.—The President may exempt a country from the
10 prohibition described in subsection (a) if the President de-
11 termines that such exemption is in the national security
12 interests of the United States and transmits to Congress
13 a written statement explaining such national security in-
14 terest.

15 (d) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act—

16 (1) the term “opposed the position of the
17 United States” means, in the case of a country, that
18 the country’s recorded votes in the United Nations
19 General Assembly during the most recent session of
20 the General Assembly and, in the case of a country
21 which is a member of the United Nations Security
22 Council, the country’s recorded votes both in the Se-
23 curity Council and the General Assembly during the
24 most recent session of the General Assembly, were
25 the same as the position of the United States less

1 than 50 percent of the time, using for this purpose
2 a comparison of the recorded vote cast by each mem-
3 ber country with the recorded vote cast by the
4 United States, as described in the annual report
5 submitted to Congress pursuant to section 406 of
6 the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal
7 Years 1990 and 1991;

8 (2) the term “most recent session of the Gen-
9 eral Assembly” means the most recently completed
10 plenary session of the General Assembly for which a
11 comparison of the vote cast by each member country
12 with the vote cast by the United States is described
13 in the most recent report submitted to Congress
14 pursuant to section 406 of the Foreign Relations
15 Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991; and

16 (3) the term “United States assistance” means
17 assistance under—

18 (A) chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign As-
19 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.;
20 relating to the economic support fund);

21 (B) chapter 5 of part II of such Act (22
22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.; relating to international
23 military education and training);

1 (C) the “Foreign Military Financing Pro-
2 gram” account under section 23 of the Arms
3 Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763); and

4 (D) any other monetary or physical assist-
5 ance.

6 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect
7 upon the date of the submission to Congress of the report
8 required under section 406 of the Foreign Relations Au-
9 thorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991, that is re-
10 quired to be submitted by March 31, 2018.

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