H. R. 28

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

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. GOHMERT 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.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United Nations Voting Accountability Act of 2019”.

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

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

(b) Exemption Due to Change in Government.—

(1) In general.—The Secretary of State may
exempt a country from the prohibition described in
subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that since
the beginning of the most recent session of the Gen-
eral Assembly—

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

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

(2) Duration of exemption.—An exemption
under paragraph (1) shall be effective only until sub-
mission of the next report required under section
406 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fis-
cal Years 1990 and 1991 (22 U.S.C. 2414a) that is
submitted after the Secretary of State makes such an exemption.

(3) Notification and discussion.—The Secretary of State shall notify Congress with respect to an exemption made under paragraph (1), together with a discussion of the basis for the Secretary’s determination with respect to each such exemption.

(c) Exemption for national security interests.—The President may exempt a country from the prohibition described in subsection (a) if the President determines that such exemption is in the national security interests of the United States and transmits to Congress a written statement explaining such national security interest.

(d) Definitions.—As used in this Act—

(1) the term “opposed the position of the United States” means, in the case of a country, that the country’s recorded votes in the United Nations General Assembly during the most recent session of the General Assembly and, in the case of a country which is a member of the United Nations Security Council, the country’s recorded votes both in the Security Council and the General Assembly during the most recent session of the General Assembly, were the same as the position of the United States less
than 50 percent of the time, using for this purpose
a comparison of the recorded vote cast by each mem-
ber country with the recorded vote cast by the
United States, as described in the annual report
submitted to Congress pursuant to section 406 of
the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal
Years 1990 and 1991;

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

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

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

(B) chapter 5 of part II of such Act (22
U.S.C. 2347 et seq.; relating to international
military education and training);
(C) the “Foreign Military Financing Program” account under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763); and

(D) any other monetary or physical assistance.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect upon the date of the submission to Congress of the report required under section 406 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991, that is required to be submitted by March 31, 2019.