

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3945

To prohibit using Federal funds to refer to the head of state of the People's Republic of China as "President" on new United States Government documents and communications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2021

Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. GOSAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit using Federal funds to refer to the head of state of the People's Republic of China as "President" on new United States Government documents and communications, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "General Secretary
5 Act".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The leadership of the People’s Republic of
2 China has gone unchallenged in its perverse pursuits
3 of human rights abuses across decades, including in
4 its commission of the following:

5 (A) The Campaign to Suppress Counter-
6 revolutionaries, which killed 712,000 people.

7 (B) The Chinese Land Reform Movement,
8 which may have killed up to a million Chinese
9 citizens.

10 (C) The Great Chinese Famine, a man-
11 made disaster that may have killed approxi-
12 mately 30,000,000 people; of that total, it is es-
13 timated that anywhere between 2,000,000 and
14 3,000,000 people were beaten or tortured to
15 death.

16 (D) The crackdown of the pro-democracy
17 Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, which may
18 have killed up to 10,000 people.

19 (2) In recent years, the Chinese Communist
20 Party (CCP) has continued its barbaric and uncivi-
21 lized rule, including by—

22 (A) harvesting the organs of up to thou-
23 sands of Chinese citizens every year, many of
24 whom are Falun Gong practitioners;

1 (B) coercing over half a million Tibetans
2 to work in forced labor camps in the first seven
3 months of 2020, and forcibly sending thousands
4 of Tibetans to areas within the People’s Repub-
5 lic of China (PRC); and

6 (C) imprisoning up to 2,000,000 Uyghurs
7 and ethnic Kazaks and Uzbeks in “re-edu-
8 cation” camps since April 2017, as well as
9 condoning and facilitating the practice of forced
10 abortion, sterilization, and other forms of sex-
11 ual abuse on women imprisoned in these camps.

12 (3) On January 19, 2021, then-Secretary of
13 State Michael R. Pompeo determined that the CCP
14 has committed genocide against the predominantly
15 Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious mi-
16 nority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous
17 Region.

18 (4) Since late 2016, when the CCP escalated its
19 “Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism”,
20 Xinjiang province’s criminal justice system has con-
21 victed and sentenced more than 250,000 people to
22 imprisonment, often without the defendant having
23 committed a “genuine” offense.

24 (5) The blatant disregard that the CCP has for
25 basic human decency runs contrary to the well-func-

1 tioning of an open and civilized society, and respon-
2 sibility for the ongoing genocide in Xinjiang and
3 human rights abuses throughout China must lie with
4 the head of state of the People’s Republic of China.

5 (6) The title of “President” has often been uti-
6 lized to describe the office of the head of state of the
7 People’s Republic of China, in both the United
8 States Government and private publications.

9 (7) Addressing the head of state of the People’s
10 Republic of China as a “President” grants the incor-
11 rect assumption that the people of the state, via
12 democratic means, have readily legitimized the lead-
13 er who rules them.

14 (8) The head of state of the People’s Republic
15 of China derives all power and authority from the
16 CCP and is accountable only to them.

17 (9) The bipartisan U.S.-China Economic and
18 Security Review Commission stated the following in
19 the Executive Summary of their 2019 report to Con-
20 gress: “If there were glimmers of political opening in
21 China, they have been firmly extinguished. It is for
22 this reason that this year the Commission made the
23 decision to start referring to Xi Jinping using the
24 title by which he derives his authority: General Sec-
25 retary of the Chinese Communist Party. China is

1 not a democracy, and its citizens have no right to
2 vote, assemble, or speak freely. Giving General Sec-
3 retary Xi the unearned title of ‘President’ lends a
4 veneer of democratic legitimacy to the CCP and Xi’s
5 authoritarian rule.”.

6 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to—

8 (1) condemn in the strongest possible terms the
9 horrific human rights abuses being perpetuated and
10 enabled by the leadership of the CCP;

11 (2) urge all countries to do the same;

12 (3) recognize the deep friendship between the
13 United States and the citizens of the People’s Re-
14 public of China, the first victims of their govern-
15 ment’s cruelty; and

16 (4) honor the memory of all those who have
17 died as a result of the callous rule of the CCP.

18 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON USING FEDERAL FUNDS TO**
19 **REFER TO THE HEAD OF STATE OF THE PEO-**
20 **PLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AS “PRESIDENT”**
21 **ON NEW UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOC-**
22 **UMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

23 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Fed-
24 eral Government may not obligate or expend any funds
25 for the creation and dissemination of United States Gov-

1 ernment documents and communications that refer to the
2 head of state of the People’s Republic of China as any-
3 thing other than “General Secretary of the Chinese Com-
4 munist Party”, or alternatively, as “General Secretary”.

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