

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 4028, With an  
Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a  
new text)**

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4028

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

Ms. MENG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Cemeteries are sacred sites that are of great  
2           spiritual, cultural, and historical significance to  
3           many religious and ethnic groups.

4           (2) Congress is committed to protecting and  
5           preserving the heritage and sacred sites of national,  
6           religious, and ethnic groups, which includes ceme-  
7           teries in the United States and abroad.

8           (3) Cemeteries around the world have and con-  
9           tinue to be defaced or destroyed as a direct result  
10          of their affiliation with a particular religious or spir-  
11          itual group.

12          (4) Such attacks constitute an assault on the  
13          fundamental right to freedom of religion, and are es-  
14          pecially egregious when sponsored or tolerated by  
15          the local or national governments in the countries in  
16          which such offenses occur.

17 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
18 **DOM ACT OF 1998.**

19          Section 2(a)(4) of the International Religious Free-  
20          dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)(4)) is amended in  
21          the fourth sentence by inserting “desecration of ceme-  
22          teries,” after “confiscations of property,”.