

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1150, with An Amendment**

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

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1150

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

FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. ESHOO) 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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

6       (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; Policy.
- 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; report.
- 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.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY.**

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

5 (1) in paragraph (3), by inserting immediately  
6 prior to the penultimate sentence the following new  
7 sentence: “The freedom of thought, conscience, and  
8 religion is understood to protect theistic and non-  
9 theistic beliefs as well as the right not to profess or  
10 practice any religion.”; and

11 (2) 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 influence” after “religious majori-  
19 ties”.

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 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

23 “(6) Because the promotion of international re-  
24 ligious freedom protects human rights, advances de-  
25 mocracy abroad, and advances United States inter-  
26 ests in stability, security, and development globally,

1 the promotion of international religious freedom re-  
2 quires new and evolving policies, and diplomatic re-  
3 sponses that are drawn from the expertise of the na-  
4 tional security agencies, the diplomatic services, and  
5 other governmental agencies and nongovernmental  
6 organizations, and are coordinated across and car-  
7 ried out by the entire range of Federal agencies.”.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

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

11 (1) in paragraph (13)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

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

20 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

24 (ii) by inserting after “forced religious  
25 conversion” the following: “, forcibly com-

1                    pelling non-believers or non-theists to re-  
2                    cant their beliefs or to convert”; and

3                    (2) by adding at the end, the following new  
4 paragraphs:

5                    “(14) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—The term ‘Spe-  
6                    cial Watch List’ means the Special Watch List as  
7                    contained in the Executive Summary to the Annual  
8                    Report and described in section 102(b)(1)(F)(iii).

9                    “(15) NON-STATE ACTOR.—The term ‘non-state  
10                    actor’ means a nonsovereign entity that exercises  
11                    significant political power and is able to exert influ-  
12                    ence at a national or international level but does not  
13                    belong to or ally itself to any particular country and  
14                    often employs illegal violence in pursuit of its objec-  
15                    tives.

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

1           **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF**  
2           **STATE ACTIVITIES**

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

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

9           (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end be-  
10 fore the period the following: “, and shall report di-  
11 rectly to the Secretary of State”;

12           (2) in subsection (c)—

13           (A) in paragraph (1)—

14           (i) by striking “responsibility” and in-  
15 sserting “responsibilities”;

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

19           (iii) in subparagraph (A) (as so  
20 added), by striking the period at the end  
21 and inserting “; and”; and

22           (iv) by adding at the end the following  
23 new subparagraph:

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 new subparagraph:

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 new paragraph:

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 through the period at  
15 the end and inserting “individuals to fill at least 25  
16 full-time equivalent staff positions, and any other  
17 temporary staff positions as needed to compile, edit,  
18 and manage the Annual Report under the direct su-  
19 pervision of the Ambassador at Large, and for the  
20 conduct of investigations by the Office and for nec-  
21 essary travel to carry out the provisions of this Act.  
22 The Secretary of State should also provide to the  
23 Ambassador at Large funds that are sufficient to  
24 carry out the duties described in this section, includ-  
25 ing as necessary representation funds, in amounts

1 comparable to those provided to other Ambassadors  
2 at Large in the Department of State.”.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Because international re-  
4 ligious freedom is a vital foreign policy interest and one  
5 that needs coordination across many regional bureaus and  
6 among Special Envoys and Special Representatives with  
7 overlapping mandates, the Secretary of State should con-  
8 sider elevating the office of International Religious Free-  
9 dom and the position of the Ambassador-at-Large for  
10 International Religious Freedom to the Office of the Sec-  
11 retary, similar to other Ambassador-at-Large positions  
12 that now report directly to the Secretary. Providing the  
13 Office of International Religious Freedom with additional  
14 resources and status will demonstrate both the strategic  
15 importance of international religious freedom policy within  
16 the State Department bureaucracy and show persecuted  
17 religious groups globally that the U.S. gives priority to the  
18 protection and promotion of international religious free-  
19 dom as mandated by the International Religious Freedom  
20 Act of 1998.

21 **SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**  
22 **FREEDOM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(b)(1) of the Inter-  
24 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
25 6412(b)(1)) is amended—

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

3 (2) in subparagraph (A)—

4 (A) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause  
5 (vii); and

6 (B) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-  
7 lowing new clauses:

8 “(iv) particularly severe violations of  
9 religious freedom in that country in the  
10 case of a foreign country with respect to  
11 which a government does not exist or the  
12 government does not control its territory;

13 “(v) an identification of prisoners in  
14 that country pursuant to section 108;

15 “(vi) any action taken by the govern-  
16 ment of that country to censor religious  
17 content, communications, or worship activi-  
18 ties online, including descriptions of the  
19 targeted religious group, the content, com-  
20 munication, or activities censored, and the  
21 means used.”;

22 (3) in subparagraph (B), in the matter pre-  
23 ceding clause (i)—

24 (A) by inserting “persecution of lawyers,  
25 politicians, or other human rights advocates

1 seeking to defend the rights of members of reli-  
2 gious groups or highlight religious freedom vio-  
3 lations, prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter  
4 or male infant circumcision,” after “entire reli-  
5 gions,”; and

6 (B) by inserting “policies that ban or re-  
7 strict the public manifestation of religious belief  
8 and the peaceful involvement of religious groups  
9 or their members in the political life of each  
10 such foreign country,” after “such groups,”;

11 (4) in subparagraph (C)—

12 (A) by striking “A description” and insert-  
13 ing “A comprehensive description”;

14 (B) by striking “policies in support” and  
15 inserting “diplomatic and political coordination  
16 efforts, and other policies in support”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end before the period  
18 the following: “, and a comprehensive and coun-  
19 try-specific analysis of the impact of actions by  
20 the United States on the status of religious  
21 freedom in each such country”; and

22 (5) in subparagraph (F)—

23 (A) in clause (i)—

1 (i) by striking “section 402(b)(1)”  
2 and inserting “section 402(b)(1)(B)(i)”;  
3 and

4 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing: “Any country in which a non-state  
6 actor designated as an entity of particular  
7 concern for religious freedom under section  
8 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International  
9 Religious Freedom Act is located shall be  
10 included in this section of the report.”

11 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
12 clause:

13 “(iii) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—A list,  
14 to be known as the ‘Special Watch List’,  
15 which shall identify each country that en-  
16 gages in or tolerates severe violations of re-  
17 ligious freedom during the previous year  
18 but which the President determines does  
19 not meet, at the time of the publication of  
20 the Annual Report, all of the criteria de-  
21 scribed in section 3(11) for designation  
22 under section 402(b)(1).”.

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

1           (1) the original intent of the International Reli-  
2           gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.)  
3           was to require annual reports from both the Depart-  
4           ment of State and the Commission on International  
5           Religious Freedom to be delivered each year, during  
6           the same calendar year, and with at least 5 months  
7           separating these reports, in order to provide updated  
8           information for policy-makers, Members of Congress,  
9           and nongovernmental organizations; and

10           (2) given that the annual Country Reports on  
11           Human Rights Practices no longer contain updated  
12           information on religious freedom conditions globally,  
13           it is important that the Department of State and the  
14           Commission work together to fulfill the original in-  
15           tent of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
16           1998.

17 **SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS; RE-**  
18 **PORT.**

19           (a) AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF  
20 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980  
21 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

22           (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
23           subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

1           (2) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by strik-  
2           ing “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFU-  
3           GEES.—The Secretary of State”;

4           (3) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by strik-  
5           ing “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD  
6           SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”;

7           (4) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
8           following:

9           “(a) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State  
11           shall develop a curriculum for training United States  
12           Foreign Service officers in the scope and strategic  
13           value of international religious freedom, how viola-  
14           tions of international religious freedom harm funda-  
15           mental United States interests, how the advance-  
16           ment of international religious freedom can advance  
17           such interests, how United States international reli-  
18           gious freedom policy should be carried out in prac-  
19           tice by United States diplomats and other Foreign  
20           Service officers, and the relevance and relationship  
21           of international religious freedom to United States  
22           defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs  
23           efforts. The Secretary of State shall ensure the  
24           availability of sufficient resources to develop and im-  
25           plement such curriculum.

1           “(2) ROLE OF OTHER OFFICIALS.—The Sec-  
2           retary of State shall carry out paragraph (1)—

3                   “(A) with the assistance of the Amba-  
4           sador at Large for International Religious  
5           Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the  
6           International Religious Freedom Act of 1998;

7                   “(B) in coordination with the Director of  
8           the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs  
9           Training Center and other Federal officials as  
10          appropriate; and

11                   “(C) in consultation with the United  
12          States Commission on International Religious  
13          Freedom established in section 201(a) of the  
14          International Religious Freedom Act of 1998  
15          and other relevant stakeholders.

16          “(b) TRAINING PROGRAM.—Not later than the date  
17          that is one year after the date of the enactment of the  
18          Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, the  
19          Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs  
20          Training Center shall begin mandatory training on reli-  
21          gious freedom for all Foreign Service officers, including  
22          all entry level officers, all officers prior to departure for  
23          posting outside the United States, and all outgoing deputy  
24          chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such training shall,

1 at minimum, be a separate, independent, and required  
2 segment of each of the following:

3 “(1) The A–100 course attended by all Foreign  
4 Service officers.

5 “(2) The courses required of every Foreign  
6 Service officer prior to a posting outside the United  
7 States, with segments tailored to the particular reli-  
8 gious demography, religious freedom conditions, and  
9 United States strategies for advancing religious free-  
10 dom, in each receiving country.

11 “(3) The courses required of all outgoing dep-  
12 uty chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

13 “(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and  
14 training materials developed pursuant to subsections (a)  
15 and (b) should be made available to all other Federal  
16 agencies.”.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with  
19 the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for Inter-  
20 national Religious Freedom, and the Director of the  
21 George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Cen-  
22 ter, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
23 the House of Representatives and the Committee on For-  
24 eign Relations of the Senate a report containing a com-  
25 prehensive plan for undertaking training for Foreign Serv-

1 ice officers as required under section 708 of the Foreign  
2 Services Act of 1980, as amended by subsection (a) of this  
3 section.

4 **SEC. 104. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELI-**  
5 **GIOUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.**

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

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

12 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “, as appro-  
13 priate, provide” and insert “make available”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
15 section:

16 “(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE UNITED  
17 STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS  
18 FREEDOM.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
20 make publicly available online and in official publica-  
21 tions lists of persons it determines are imprisoned,  
22 detained, disappeared, placed under house arrest,  
23 tortured, or subject to forced renunciations of faith  
24 for their religious activity or religious freedom advo-  
25 cacy by the government of a foreign country that the

1 Commission recommends for designation as a coun-  
2 try of particular concern for religious freedom under  
3 section 402(b)(1) or by a non-state actor that the  
4 Commission recommends for designation as an enti-  
5 ty of particular concern for religious freedom under  
6 section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Reli-  
7 gious Freedom Act and include as much publicly-  
8 available information as possible on the conditions  
9 and circumstances of such persons.

10 “(2) DISCRETION.—In compiling such lists, the  
11 Commission shall exercise all appropriate discretion,  
12 including consideration of the safety and security of,  
13 and benefit to, the persons who may be included on  
14 the lists and the families of such persons.”.

## 15 **TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY** 16 **COUNCIL**

### 17 **SEC. 201. SPECIAL ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELI-** 18 **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

19 Section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50  
20 U.S.C. 3021) is amended by striking subsection (k) and  
21 inserting the following:

22 “(k) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
23 gress that there should be within the staff of the National  
24 Security Council a Special Adviser to the President on  
25 International Religious Freedom, whose position should be

1 comparable to that of a director within the Executive Of-  
2 fice of the President, with the primary responsibility to  
3 serve as a resource for executive branch officials on inter-  
4 national religious freedom, compiling and maintaining in-  
5 formation on the facts and circumstances of violations of  
6 religious freedom (as defined in section 3 of the Inter-  
7 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998), and making rel-  
8 evant policy recommendations to advance United States  
9 international religious freedom policy. The Special Advisor  
10 should also assist the Ambassador-at-Large to coordinate  
11 international religious freedom policies and strategies  
12 throughout the executive branch and within any inter-  
13 agency policy committees where the Ambassador-at-Large  
14 participates.”.

15 **TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL**  
16 **ACTIONS**

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

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, concurrent  
19 with the annual foreign country review required by section  
20 402(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
21 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1))—

22 (1) review and identify any non-state actors op-  
23 erating in any such reviewed country or surrounding  
24 region that have engaged in particularly severe viola-  
25 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 shall,  
7       as soon as practicable after the designation is made, sub-  
8       mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report  
9       detailing the reasons for such designation.

10       (c) ACTIONS.—The President should take specific ac-  
11       tions to address severe violations of religious freedom of  
12       non-state actors that are designated under subsection (a),  
13       including taking actions commensurate to those actions  
14       described in section 405 of the International Religious  
15       Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445).

16       (d) DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL REPORT.—The  
17       Secretary of State should include information detailing the  
18       reasons the President designated a non-state actor as an  
19       entity of particular concern for religious freedom under  
20       subsection (a) in the Annual Report required in section  
21       102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
22       1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)).

23       (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24       gress that the Secretary of State should work with Con-  
25       gress to create new political, financial, and diplomatic

1 tools to address severe violations of religious freedom by  
2 non-state actors and to update the actions the President  
3 can take in section 405 of the International Religious  
4 Freedom Act of 1998.

5 (f) DETERMINATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—  
6 In order to appropriately target Presidential actions under  
7 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 in re-  
8 sponse, the President shall with respect to each non-state  
9 actor designated as an entity of particular concern for reli-  
10 gious freedom under subsection (a), seek to determine the  
11 specific officials or members thereof that are responsible  
12 for the particularly severe violations of religious freedom  
13 engaged in or tolerated by that entity.

14 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “appro-  
15 priate congressional committees”, “non-state actor”, and  
16 “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” have  
17 the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Inter-  
18 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
19 6402), as amended by section 3 of this Act.

20 **SEC. 302. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAR-**  
21 **TICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
22 **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

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

25 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
3 read as follows:

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

8 “(i) review the status of religious free-  
9 dom in each foreign country to determine  
10 whether the government of that country  
11 has engaged in or tolerated particularly se-  
12 vere violations of religious freedom in each  
13 such country during the preceding 12  
14 months or longer; and

15 “(ii) designate each country the gov-  
16 ernment of which has engaged in or toler-  
17 ated violations described in clause (i) as a  
18 country of particular concern for religious  
19 freedom.”; and

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

24 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
25 follows:

1 “(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Presi-  
3 dent designates a country as a country of par-  
4 ticular concern for religious freedom under  
5 paragraph (1)(A), the President shall, not later  
6 than 90 days after the designation is made,  
7 transmit to the appropriate congressional com-  
8 mittees—

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

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

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

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

1 (C) by adding at the end, the following  
2 new paragraph:

3 “(4) TREATMENT OF COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL  
4 WATCH LIST.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall  
6 designate as a country of particular concern for  
7 religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A) any  
8 country that appears on the Special Watch List  
9 in more than 2 consecutive Annual Reports.

10 “(B) EXERCISE OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—  
11 The President may waive the application of  
12 subparagraph (A) with respect to a country for  
13 up to 2 years if the President certifies to the  
14 appropriate committees of Congress that—

15 “(i) the country has entered into an  
16 agreement with the United States to carry  
17 out specific and credible actions to improve  
18 religious freedom conditions and end reli-  
19 gious freedom violations;

20 “(ii) the country has entered into an  
21 agreement with the United Nations, the  
22 European Union, or other ally of the  
23 United States, to carry out specific and  
24 credible actions to improve religious free-

1           dom conditions and end religious freedom  
2           violations; or

3                   “(iii) the waiver is in the national se-  
4           curity interests of the United States.

5                   “(C) EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUN-  
6           TRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—The presence  
7           or absence of a country from the Special Watch  
8           List in any given year shall not preclude the  
9           designation of such country as a country of par-  
10          ticular concern for religious freedom under  
11          paragraph (1)(A) in any such year.”; and

12           (2) in subsection (c)(5), in the second sentence,  
13          by inserting “and include a description of the impact  
14          of the designation of such sanction or sanctions that  
15          exist in each country” after “determines satisfy the  
16          requirements of this subsection”.

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

23                   (2) by adding at the end the following new  
24          clause:

1                   “(iv) the impact on the advancement  
2                   of United States interests in democracy,  
3                   human rights, and security, and a descrip-  
4                   tion of policy tools being applied in the  
5                   country, including programs that target  
6                   democratic stability, economic growth, and  
7                   counter-terrorism.”.

8 **SEC. 304. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

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

11           (1) in subsection (a)—

12                   (A) by striking “subsection (b)” and in-  
13                   serting “subsection (c)”; and

14                   (B) by inserting “, for a single 180-day pe-  
15                   riod,” after “may waive”;

16           (2) by striking “that—” and all that follows  
17           and inserting “that the exercise of such waiver au-  
18           thority would further the purposes of this Act.”;

19           (3) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
20           section (c);

21           (4) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
22           lowing:

23           “(b) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.**—Subject to sub-  
24           section (c), the President may waive, for any additional  
25           period of time after the 180-day period described in sub-

1 section (a), the application of any of the actions described  
2 in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or a  
3 commensurate action in substitution thereto) with respect  
4 to a country, if the President determines and so reports  
5 to the 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 exercise of such authority is important  
10 to the national interests of the United States.”.

11 (5) in subsection (c), by inserting “or (b)” after  
12 “subsection (a)”; and

13 (6) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
14 section:

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 action in substitution thereto) with re-  
21 spect to a country do not fulfill the purposes of this  
22 Act; and

23 “(2) because the promotion of religious freedom  
24 is a compelling interest of United States foreign pol-  
25 icy, the President, the Secretary of State, and other

1 Executive branch officials, in consultation with Con-  
2 gress, should seek to find ways to address existing  
3 violations, on a case-by-case basis, through the ac-  
4 tions specified in section 405 or other commensurate  
5 action in substitution thereto.”.

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

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

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

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

20 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense  
21 of Congress that for each fiscal year that begins on or  
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Depart-  
23 ment of State should make available—

24 (1) an amount equal to not less than 10 percent  
25 of the amounts available in that fiscal year for the

1 Human Rights and Democracy Fund for the pro-  
2 motion of international religious freedom and for  
3 projects to advance United States interests in the  
4 protection and advancement of international reli-  
5 gious freedom, in particular, through grants to—

6 (A) groups that are able to develop legal  
7 protections or promote cultural and societal un-  
8 derstanding of international norms of religious  
9 freedom;

10 (B) groups that seek to address and miti-  
11 gate religiously motivated and sectarian violence  
12 and combat violent extremism; and

13 (C) groups that seek to strengthen inves-  
14 tigation, reporting, and monitoring of religious  
15 freedom violations; and

16 (2) an amount equal to not less than 2 percent  
17 of amounts available in that fiscal year for the  
18 Human Rights and Democracy Fund to be made  
19 available for the establishment of a Religious Free-  
20 dom Defense Fund, administered by the Ambassador  
21 at Large for International Religious Freedom, to  
22 provide grants for—

23 (A) victims of religious freedom abuses and  
24 their families to cover legal and other expenses

1           that may arise from detention, imprisonment,  
2           torture, fines, and other restrictions; and

3                   (B) projects to help create and support  
4           training of a new generation of defenders of re-  
5           ligious freedom, including legal and political ad-  
6           vocates, and civil society projects which seek to  
7           create advocacy networks, strengthen legal rep-  
8           resentation, train and educate new religious  
9           freedom defenders, and build the capacity of re-  
10          ligious communities and rights defenders to  
11          protect against religious freedom violations,  
12          mitigate societal or sectarian violence, or mini-  
13          mize legal or other restrictions of the right to  
14          freedom of religion.

15          (b) PREFERENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that,  
16          in providing grants under subsection (a), the Ambassador  
17          at Large for International Religious Freedom should, as  
18          appropriate, give preference to projects targeting religious  
19          freedom violations in countries designated as countries of  
20          particular concern for religious freedom under section  
21          402(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
22          1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)) and countries included on  
23          the Special Watch List described in section  
24          102(b)(1)(F)(iii) of the International Religious Freedom  
25          Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)(F)(iii)).

1 (c) ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATIONS.—

2 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made avail-  
3 able in accordance with subsection (a) shall be ad-  
4 ministered by the Ambassador at Large for Inter-  
5 national Religious Freedom.

6 (2) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing priorities  
7 and policies for providing grants in accordance with  
8 subsection (a), including priorities and policies for  
9 identification of potential grantees, the Ambassador  
10 at Large for International Religious Freedom shall  
11 consult with other Federal agencies, including the  
12 United States Commission on International Reli-  
13 gious Freedom and, as appropriate, nongovern-  
14 mental organizations.

15 **TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS**  
16 **LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SE-**  
17 **VERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
18 **GIUS FREEDOM**

19 **SEC. 501. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY**  
20 **SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
21 **DOM.**

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

24 (1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606;  
25 and

1           (2) by inserting after section 604 the following  
2           new section:

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

6           “(a) LIST.—

7                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in  
8           coordination with the Ambassador at Large and in  
9           consultation with relevant government and non-gov-  
10          ernment experts, shall establish and maintain a list  
11          of foreign individuals who are sanctioned, through  
12          visa denials, financial sanctions, or other measures,  
13          because they are responsible for ordering, control-  
14          ling, or otherwise directing particularly severe viola-  
15          tions of freedom 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 to the appropriate congressional com-  
23          mittees a report that contains the list required under  
24          subsection (a), including, with respect to each for-  
25          eign 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; and

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 this section; and

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

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

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

23           “(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
24          and the Committee on Financial Services of the  
25          House of Representatives; and

1                   “(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
2                   and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
3                   Urban Affairs of the Senate.”.

4                   **TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**  
5                   **PROVISIONS**

6                   **SEC. 601. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

7                   Title VII of the International Religious Freedom Act  
8                   of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6481 et seq.) is amended by adding  
9                   at the end the following new sections:

10                  **“SEC. 702. VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED**  
11                                 **STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**  
12                                 **CATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

13                  “(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the enduring  
14                  importance of United States institutions of higher edu-  
15                  cation worldwide both for their potential for shaping posi-  
16                  tive leadership and new educational models in host coun-  
17                  tries and for their emphasis on teaching universally recog-  
18                  nized rights of free inquiry and academic freedom.

19                  “(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
20                  gress that United States institutions of higher education  
21                  operating campuses outside the United States or estab-  
22                  lishing any educational entities with foreign governments,  
23                  particularly with or in countries the governments of which  
24                  engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom  
25                  as identified in the Annual Report, should seek to adopt

1 a voluntary code of conduct for operating in such countries  
2 that should—

3 “(1) uphold the right of freedom of religion of  
4 their employees and students, including the right to  
5 manifest that religion peacefully as protected in  
6 international law;

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

11 “(3) make every effort in all negotiations, con-  
12 tracts, or memoranda of understanding engaged in  
13 or constructed with a foreign government to protect  
14 academic freedom and the rights enshrined in the  
15 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

16 **“SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NATIONAL SE-**  
17 **CURITY STRATEGY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS**  
18 **FREEDOM THROUGH UNITED STATES FOR-**  
19 **EIGN POLICY.**

20 “It is the sense of Congress that—

21 “(1) the annual national security strategy re-  
22 port of the President required by section 108 of the  
23 National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043)  
24 should promote international religious freedom as a  
25 foreign policy and national security priority and

1 should articulate that promotion of the right to free-  
2 dom of religion is a strategy that protects other, re-  
3 lated human rights, and advances democracy outside  
4 the United States, and make clear its importance to  
5 United States foreign policy goals of stability, secu-  
6 rity, development, and diplomacy; and

7 “(2) the national security strategy report  
8 should be a guide for the strategies and activities of  
9 relevant Federal agencies and inform the Depart-  
10 ment of Defense quadrennial defense review under  
11 section 118 of title 10, United States Code, and the  
12 Department of State Quadrennial Diplomacy and  
13 Development Review.”.

14 **SEC. 602. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

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

17 (1) by striking the item relating to section 605  
18 and inserting the following:

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

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

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

21 (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.”.