

1 the five sanctioned “patriotic religious associations”
2 representing these religious are permitted to register
3 with the government and hold worship service, ex-
4 cluding all other faiths and denying the ability to
5 worship without being registered with the govern-
6 ment.

7 (3) The activities of state-sanctioned religious
8 organizations are regulated by the Chinese Com-
9 munist Party, which manages all aspects of religious
10 life.

11 (4) The Chinese Communist Party is actively
12 seeking to control, govern, and manipulate all as-
13 pects of faith through the “Sinicization of Religion”,
14 a process intended to shape religious traditions and
15 doctrines so they conform with the objectives of the
16 Chinese Communist Party.

17 (5) On February 1, 2018, the PRC Government
18 implemented new religious regulations that imposed
19 restrictions on Chinese contacts with overseas reli-
20 gious organizations, required government approval
21 for religious schools, websites, and any online reli-
22 gious service, and effectively banned unauthorized
23 religious gatherings and teachings.

24 (6) There are numerous reports that authorities
25 forced closures of Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, and

1 Taoist houses of worship and destroyed public dis-
2 plays of religious symbols throughout the country.

3 (7) Authorities arrested and detained religious
4 leaders trying to hold services online.

5 (8) There are credible reports of Chinese au-
6 thorities raiding house churches and other places of
7 religious worship, removing and confiscating reli-
8 gious paraphernalia, installing surveillance cameras
9 on religious property, pressuring congregations to
10 sing songs of the Chinese Communist Party and dis-
11 play the national flag during worship, forcing
12 churches to replace images of Jesus Christ or the
13 Virgin Mary with pictures of General Secretary Xi
14 Jinping, and banning children and students from at-
15 tending religious services.

16 (9) It has been reported that the PRC is rewrit-
17 ing and will issue a version of the Bible with the
18 “correct understanding” of the text according to the
19 Chinese Communist Party. Authorities continued to
20 restrict the printing and distribution of the Bible,
21 Quran, and other religious literature, and penalized
22 publishing and copying businesses that handled reli-
23 gious materials.

24 (10) According to the Department of State’s
25 IRF reports, the PRC Government has imprisoned

1 thousands of individuals of all faiths for practicing
2 their religious beliefs and often labels them as
3 “cults”.

4 (11) The Political Prisoner Database main-
5 tained by the human rights NGO Dui Hua Founda-
6 tion counted 3,492 individuals imprisoned for “orga-
7 nizing or using a ‘cult’ to undermine implementation
8 of the law.” Prisoners include—

9 (A) the 11th Panchen Lama, Gedun
10 Choekyi Nyima, who has been held captive
11 along with his parents since May 17, 1995;

12 (B) Pastor Zhang Shaojie, a Three-Self
13 church pastor from Nanle County in central
14 Henan was sentenced in July 2014 to 12 years
15 in prison for “gathering a crowd to disrupt the
16 public order”;

17 (C) Pastor John Cao, a United States per-
18 manent resident from Greensboro, North Caro-
19 lina, who was sentenced for 7 years in prison in
20 March 2018 under contrived charges of orga-
21 nizing illegal border crossings; and

22 (D) Pastor Wang Yi of the Early Rain
23 Covenant Church who was arrested and sen-
24 tenced to 9 years in prison for “inciting to sub-

1 vert state power” and “illegal business oper-
2 ations”.

3 (12) Authorities continue to detain Falun Gong
4 practitioners and subject them to harsh and inhu-
5 mane treatment.

6 (13) Since 1999, the Department of State has
7 designated the PRC as a country of particular con-
8 cern under the International Religious Freedom Act
9 of 1998.

10 (14) The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Prior-
11 ities and Accountability Act of 2015 states that the
12 United States overall trade negotiating objectives
13 must “take into account conditions relating to reli-
14 gious freedom of any party to negotiations for a
15 trade agreement with the United States”.

16 (15) The National Security Strategy of the
17 United States, issued in 2017, 2015, 2006, 2002,
18 1999, 1998, and 1997, committed the United States
19 to promoting international religious freedom to ad-
20 vance the security, economic, and other national in-
21 terests of the United States.

22 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

23 (a) HOLDING PRC OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR
24 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ABUSES TARGETING CHINESE
25 CHRISTIANS OR OTHER RELIGIOUS MINORITIES.—It is

1 the policy of the United States to consider senior officials
2 of the Government of the People's Republic of China
3 (PRC) who are responsible for, complicit in, or have di-
4 rectly persecuted Christians or other religious minorities
5 in the PRC to have committed—

6 (1) a gross violation of internationally recog-
7 nized human rights for purposes of imposing sanc-
8 tions with respect to such officials under the Global
9 Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22
10 U.S.C. 2656 note); and

11 (2) a particularly severe violation of religious
12 freedom for purposes of applying section
13 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality
14 Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)) with respect to such
15 officials.

16 (b) ENSURING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS CONSIDER RE-
17 LIGIOUS FREEDOM CONDITIONS.—It is the policy of the
18 United States to ensure that trade negotiations with the
19 PRC include religious freedom conditions as mandated by
20 the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Ac-
21 countability Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.).

22 (c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAMMING TO PRO-
23 MOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
24 OF CHINA.—Consistent with section 401 of the Frank R.
25 Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law

1 114– 281; 130 Stat. 1436), of the funds available to the
2 Department of State for international religious freedom
3 programs, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Re-
4 ligious Freedom should support efforts to protect and pro-
5 mote international religious freedom in the PRC and for
6 programs to protect Christians and other religious minori-
7 ties in the PRC.

8 (d) DESIGNATION OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF
9 CHINA AS A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—It is
10 the policy of the United States to continue to designate
11 the PRC as a “country of particular concern”, as long
12 as the PRC continues to engage in systematic and egre-
13 gious religious freedom violations, as defined by the Inter-
14 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–
15 292).

16 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
18 should promote religious freedom in the PRC by—

19 (1) strengthening religious freedom diplomacy
20 on behalf of Christians and other religious minorities
21 facing restrictions in the PRC;

22 (2) raising cases relating to religious or political
23 prisoners at the highest levels with PRC officials be-
24 cause experience demonstrates that consistently rais-
25 ing prisoner cases can result in improved treatment,

1 reduced sentences, or in some cases, release from
2 custody, detention, or imprisonment;

3 (3) encouraging Members of Congress to
4 “adopt” a prisoner of conscience in the PRC
5 through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commis-
6 sion’s “Defending Freedom Project”, raise the case
7 with PRC officials, and work publicly for their re-
8 lease;

9 (4) calling on the PRC Government to uncondi-
10 tionally release religious and political prisoners or, at
11 the very least, ensure that detainees are treated hu-
12 manely with access to family, the lawyer of their
13 choice, independent medical care, and the ability to
14 practice their faith while in detention;

15 (5) encouraging the global faith community to
16 speak in solidarity with the persecuted religious
17 groups in the PRC; and

18 (6) hosting, once every two years, the Ministe-
19 rial to Advance Religious Freedom organized by the
20 Department of State in order to bring together lead-
21 ers from around the world to discuss the challenges
22 facing religious freedom, identify means to address
23 religious persecution and discrimination worldwide,
24 and promote great respect for and preservation of
25 religious liberty.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to hold accountable senior officials of the Government of the People’s Republic of China who are responsible for, complicit in, or have directly persecuted Christians or other religious minorities in China, and for other purposes.”.

