

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 496, with Amendments**

**(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)**

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

# H. R. 496

To oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and the Budget, 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 oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia.

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 “Ukraine Religious  
5 Freedom Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States—

3 (1) to never recognize the illegal, attempted an-  
4 nexation of Crimea by the Government of the Russia  
5 or the separation through the use of military force  
6 or recognition of independence of any portion of  
7 Ukrainian territory; and

8 (2) to consider any alien who, while serving as  
9 an official of the Government of Russia, was respon-  
10 sible for or directly carried out particularly severe  
11 violations of religious freedom in the sovereign terri-  
12 tory of Ukraine that Russia illegally occupies, con-  
13 trols, or recognizes as independent, including  
14 through non-state armed groups and illegal entities  
15 it commands or otherwise supports or which act on  
16 Russia's behalf, to have committed particularly se-  
17 vere violations of religious freedom for purposes of  
18 applying section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration  
19 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)) with  
20 respect to any such alien.

21 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF RUSSIA AS A COUNTRY OF PAR-**  
22 **TICULAR CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
23 **DOM.**

24 For purposes of making a determination of whether  
25 to designate Russia as a country of particular concern for  
26 religious freedom under section 402 of the International

1 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442), the  
2 President shall consider any particularly severe violation  
3 of religious freedom in the territory of Ukraine that Rus-  
4 sia illegally occupies, controls, or recognizes as inde-  
5 pendent, including through non-state armed groups and  
6 illegal entities it commands or otherwise supports or which  
7 act on Russia’s behalf, during the period of time that is  
8 the basis for the determination and designation, to be a  
9 particularly severe violation of religious freedom that the  
10 Government of Russia has engaged in or tolerated.

11 **[SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

12       The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
13 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
14 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
15 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
16 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
17 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
18 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
19 vote on passage.]

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to oppose vio-  
lations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and  
armed groups commanded or otherwise supported by or  
acting on behalf of Russia.”.