

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2635

To support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2025

Mrs. KIM (for herself, Mr. BERA, and Mr. MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, 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 “Uyghur Policy Act of
5 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The People’s Republic of China (PRC) con-
2 tinues to repress the distinct Islamic, Turkic identity
3 of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and reli-
4 gious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Au-
5 tonomous Region (XUAR) in northwestern China
6 and other areas of their habitual residence.

7 (2) Uyghurs, and other predominantly Muslim
8 ethnic minorities historically making up the majority
9 of the XUAR population, have maintained through-
10 out their history a distinct religious and cultural
11 identity.

12 (3) Human rights, including freedom of religion
13 or belief, and respect for the Uyghurs’ unique Mus-
14 lim identity are legitimate interests of the inter-
15 national community.

16 (4) The PRC has ratified the International
17 Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,
18 and is thereby bound by its provisions. The PRC has
19 also signed the International Covenant on Civil and
20 Political Rights.

21 (5) An official campaign to encourage Han Chi-
22 nese migration into the XUAR has placed immense
23 pressure on those who seek to preserve the ethnic,
24 cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of the

1 Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority
2 groups.

3 (6) PRC authorities have supported an influx of
4 Han Chinese economic immigrants into the XUAR,
5 implemented discrimination against Uyghurs and
6 other minorities in hiring practices, and provided un-
7 equal access to healthcare services.

8 (7) PRC authorities have manipulated the stra-
9 tegic objectives of the international war on terror to
10 mask their increasing cultural and religious oppres-
11 sion of the Muslim population residing in the
12 XUAR.

13 (8) Following unrest in the region, in 2014,
14 Chinese authorities launched their “Strike Hard
15 against Violent Extremism” campaign, in which du-
16 bious allegations of widespread extremist activity
17 were used as justification for gross human rights
18 violations committed against Uyghurs and members
19 of other minority communities in the XUAR.

20 (9) PRC authorities have made use of the legal
21 system as a tool of repression, including for the im-
22 position of arbitrary detentions and for torture
23 against members of the Uyghur community and
24 other minority populations.

1 (10) Uyghurs and Kazakhs who have secured
2 citizenship or permanent residency outside of the
3 PRC have attested to repeated threats, harassment,
4 and surveillance by PRC officials.

5 (11) Reporting from international news organi-
6 zations has found that over the past decade, family
7 members of Uyghurs and other minority groups liv-
8 ing outside of the PRC have gone missing or been
9 detained to force Uyghur expatriates to return to
10 the PRC or silence their dissent.

11 (12) In 2017, Radio Free Asia’s Uyghur Serv-
12 ice was the first media organization to report on the
13 PRC’s vast, mass arbitrary-detention program in the
14 XUAR in 2017.

15 (13) Credible evidence from human rights orga-
16 nizations, think tanks, and journalists confirms that
17 more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs and members of other
18 ethnic minority groups have been imprisoned in
19 extrajudicial “political reeducation” centers.

20 (14) Independent accounts from former detain-
21 ees of “political reeducation” centers describe inhu-
22 mane conditions and treatment including forced po-
23 litical indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced
24 sterilization, and food deprivation.

1 (15) Former detainees also confirmed that they
2 were told by guards that the only way to secure re-
3 lease was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty
4 to the PRC Government.

5 (16) Popular discourse surrounding the ongoing
6 atrocities in the XUAR and advocacy efforts to as-
7 sist Uyghurs remains muted in most Muslim major-
8 ity nations around the world.

9 (17) Former Secretary of States Antony
10 Blinken and Michael Pompeo and Secretary of State
11 Marco Rubio confirmed that the PRC Government
12 has committed genocide and crimes against human-
13 ity against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious
14 minorities in the XUAR.

15 (18) Government bodies of multiple nations
16 have also declared that PRC Government's atrocities
17 against such populations in the XUAR constitute
18 genocide, including the parliaments of the United
19 Kingdom, Belgium, Czechia, Lithuania, the Nether-
20 lands, and Canada.

21 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22 It is the Sense of Congress that—

23 (1) the Government of the People's Republic of
24 China should immediately open the Xinjiang Uyghur
25 Autonomous Region (XUAR) to regular, trans-

1 parent, and unmanipulated visits by members of the
2 press, international organizations including the Of-
3 fice of the United Nations High Commissioner for
4 Human Rights, academic and human rights research
5 institutions, as well as foreign delegations including
6 from the United States Congress;

7 (2) the Government of the People's Republic of
8 China should recognize, and take tangible steps to
9 protect and preserve, the distinct ethnic, cultural, re-
10 ligious, and linguistic identity of Uyghurs and mem-
11 bers of other ethnic and religious minority groups in
12 the XUAR;

13 (3) the Government of the People's Republic of
14 China should cease all government-sponsored crack-
15 downs, imprisonments, and detentions of people
16 throughout the XUAR aimed at repressing their eth-
17 nic, cultural, political, or religious identities;

18 (4) the Government of the People's Republic of
19 China should cease all government-sponsored
20 transnational repression of Uyghurs, including the
21 detainment, harassment, intimidation, and surveil-
22 lance of the family members of exiled Uyghurs and
23 Uyghur activists;

24 (5) it is commendable for countries to provide
25 shelter and hospitality to Uyghurs and other minor-

1 ity group members in exile, as Turkey, Albania, and
2 Germany have done;

3 (6) urges all countries, especially fellow democ-
4 racies and those with sizeable Muslim populations,
5 to condemn and address the plight of Uyghurs and
6 other minority communities in the XUAR;

7 (7) the Government of the People’s Republic of
8 China should immediately and unconditionally re-
9 lease all prisoners that have been detained for their
10 ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identities,
11 for expressing their political or religious beliefs in
12 the XUAR, or for being related to members of the
13 Uyghur diaspora or activist community including—

14 (A) Ekper Asat, who participated in the
15 Department of State’s International Visitors
16 Leadership Program in 2016, was incarcerated
17 after returning to the XUAR, and is now serv-
18 ing a 15 year prison sentence on charges of “in-
19 citing ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination”;

20 (B) Dr. Gulshan Abbas, a retired medical
21 doctor and Uyghur, who was wrongfully de-
22 tained in the XUAR on September 11, 2018,
23 and unjustly sentenced to 20 years in prison in
24 retaliation for her sister’s advocacy for Uyghur
25 human rights issues; and

(C) Kamile Wayit, a university student and Uyghur, who was wrongfully detained on December 12, 2022, after returning to the XUAR while on break from studying during the winter holiday;

(8) the Government of the People’s Republic of China should facilitate access for international humanitarian organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to the “political reeducation” centers in the XUAR to ensure prisoners are not being mistreated and are receiving necessary medical care; and

(9) the Department of State should continue to facilitate the unhindered dissemination of information to the international community on issues regarding the human rights, religious freedom, and transnational repression of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups in the XUAR.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES STRENGTHENING OF COORDINATION ON UYGHUR ISSUES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall—

1 (1) prioritize policies, programs, and projects to
2 support the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic
3 and religious minority groups in the XUAR;

4 (2) vigorously promote the policy of seeking to
5 protect the distinct ethnic, religious, cultural, and
6 linguistic identity of the Uyghurs and other minority
7 groups and seek improved protection of human
8 rights in the XUAR;

9 (3) direct the State Department to maintain
10 close contact with Uyghur religious, cultural, and
11 political leaders, including seeking regular travel to
12 the XUAR and to Uyghur populations in Central
13 Asia, Turkey, Albania, Germany, and other parts of
14 Europe;

15 (4) lead coordination efforts for the release of
16 political prisoners in the XUAR who are being de-
17 tained for exercising their human rights or being rel-
18 atives of exiled Uyghurs;

19 (5) consult with the United States Congress on
20 policies relevant to the XUAR and the Uyghurs;

21 (6) coordinate with relevant Federal agencies to
22 administer aid to Uyghur rights advocates;

23 (7) make efforts to establish contacts with for-
24 eign ministries of other countries, especially in Eu-
25 rope, Central Asia, and members of the Organisation

1 of Islamic Cooperation, to pursue a policy of pro-
2 moting greater respect for human rights and reli-
3 gious freedom for Uyghurs and other ethnic and re-
4 ligious minority groups from the XUAR;

5 (8) utilize the Organisation of Islamic Coopera-
6 tion and United States Strategic Dialogue to ad-
7 dress Uyghur rights, working with the Organisation
8 of Islamic Cooperation individual member states to
9 develop and implement joint initiatives and pro-
10 grams aimed at promoting awareness of Uyghur
11 rights, and support Uyghur victims of detainment,
12 harassment, and transnational repression;

13 (9) support independent media authorized
14 under PL 111/202 22 U.S.C. 6208 of the 111th
15 Congress that conduct reporting and investigative
16 journalism focused on the XUAR, including in local
17 languages, to ensure that further PRC human rights
18 abuses are reported on;

19 (10) work with international partners to raise
20 awareness concerning acts of transnational repres-
21 sion against Uyghur Americans or Uyghurs exiled in
22 the United States;

23 (11) develop and implement strategies to pre-
24 vent and respond to the transnational repression of

1 Uyghur Americans and Uyghurs exiled in the United
2 States;

3 (12) establish a reporting mechanism for indi-
4 viduals to report incidents of transnational repres-
5 sion; and

6 (13) submit an annual report, including a clas-
7 sified annex if necessary, to Congress on actions
8 taken by the United States to address and prevent
9 transnational repression against Uyghurs in the
10 United States, and recommendations for further leg-
11 islative or policy measures.

12 (b) SUPPORT.—The Secretary of State shall ensure
13 the Department of State has adequate resources, staff,
14 and administrative support to carry out this section.

15 (c) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
16 the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act.

18 **SEC. 5. FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES TO CON-**
19 **DUCT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE ISLAMIC**
20 **WORLD ON THE UYGHUR SITUATION.**

21 Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the
22 United States Speaker Program of the Bureau of Edu-
23 cational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State,
24 \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027
25 is authorized to be made available to support human

1 rights advocates working on behalf of the Uyghurs and
2 members of other ethnic and religious minority groups
3 from the XUAR that are persecuted in the PRC, whose
4 names may be provided by the Department of State in
5 consultation with representatives of the global Uyghur
6 community, to speak at global public diplomacy forums,
7 particularly those in which Organisation of Islamic Co-
8 operation countries and other Muslim-majority countries
9 are present, on issues regarding the human rights and reli-
10 gious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic
11 and religious minority groups persecuted in the PRC.

12 **SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

13 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
14 requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be car-
15 ried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

16 **SEC. 7. ACCESS TO DETENTION FACILITIES AND PRISONS**
17 **AND THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.**

18 (a) STRATEGY ON POLITICAL REEDUCATION AND
19 DETENTION FACILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
21 State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant
22 Federal departments and agencies, develop a strategy to
23 cooperate with like-minded partners to pressure the Peo-
24 ple's Republic of China to—

1 (1) close all detention facilities and “political
2 reeducation” camps housing Uyghurs and members
3 of other ethnic minority groups in the XUAR;

4 (2) allow unhindered access to detention facili-
5 ties and “political reeducation” camps in the XUAR
6 by independent media, researchers, international or-
7 ganizations and the Office of the United Nations
8 High Commissioner for Human Rights for a com-
9 prehensive assessment of the human rights situation;
10 and

11 (3) protect human rights and preserve the dis-
12 tinct religious and cultural identity of the Uyghurs
13 and the other religious and ethnic minority commu-
14 nities in the XUAR.

15 (b) REPORT ON STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

16 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
17 this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Com-
18 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
19 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate
20 a report, including a classified annex if necessary, that in-
21 cludes—

22 (1) the strategy developed pursuant to sub-
23 section (a); and

1 (2) all the steps taken to implement such strat-
2 egy pursuant to the objectives described in sub-
3 section (a).

4 **SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT FOR UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING.**

5 (a) UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING AND STAFFING.—

6 The Secretary of State shall take such steps as may be
7 necessary to ensure that—

8 (1) Uyghur language training is available to
9 Foreign Service officers as appropriate; and

10 (2) every effort is made to ensure that at least
11 1 Uyghur-speaking member of the Foreign Service
12 (as such term is defined by section 103 of the For-
13 eign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903)) is as-
14 signed to each United States diplomatic or consular
15 post in China.

16 (b) REPORT.—No later than 1 year after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
18 2 years, the Foreign Service Institute shall submit to the
19 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
20 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
21 ate a report that outlines all the steps taken to implement
22 subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 9. UYGHUR CONSIDERATIONS AT THE UNITED NA-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 The President should direct the United States Per-
4 manent Representative to the United Nations to use the
5 voice, vote, and influence of the United States to—

6 (1) oppose any efforts to prevent consideration
7 of the gross violation of internationally recognized
8 human rights in the XUAR in any body of the
9 United Nations;

10 (2) oppose any efforts to prevent the participa-
11 tion of any Uyghur human rights advocates in non-
12 governmental fora hosted by or otherwise organized
13 under the auspices of any body of the United Na-
14 tions; and

15 (3) support the appointment of a special
16 rapporteur or working group for the XUAR for the
17 purposes of monitoring human rights violations and
18 abuses in the XUAR, and for making reports avail-
19 able to the High Commissioner for Refugees, the
20 High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human
21 Rights Commission, the General Assembly, and
22 other United Nations bodies.

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