

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5838

To state the policy of the United States with respect to religious freedom  
in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2025

Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. McCAUL)  
introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on  
Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 com-  
mittee concerned

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## A BILL

To state the policy of the United States with respect to  
religious freedom in the People's Republic of China, 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 “Combating the Perse-  
5 cution of Religious Groups in China Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) HOLDING OFFICIALS OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUB-  
8 LIC OF CHINA RESPONSIBLE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

1 ABUSES.—It is the policy of the United States to consider  
2 that any official of the Government of the People’s Repub-  
3 lic of China who is responsible for or has directly carried  
4 out abuses of religious freedom, including those involving  
5 arbitrary detention, forced sterilization, torture, forced  
6 labor, and serious restrictions on freedom of religion or  
7 belief, expression, and movement against religious minori-  
8 ties, including Protestant Christians, Catholics, Bud-  
9 dhists, Muslims, and Falun Gong practitioners, in the  
10 People’s Republic of China may have committed a gross  
11 violation of internationally recognized human rights for  
12 purposes of imposing sanctions with respect to such offi-  
13 cial under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Account-  
14 ability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

15 (b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAMMING TO PRO-  
16 MOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC  
17 OF CHINA.—It is the policy of the United States—

18 (1) that the relevant bureaus of the Depart-  
19 ment of State, including the Bureau of East Asian  
20 and Pacific Affairs, should support efforts to pro-  
21 mote international religious freedom in the People’s  
22 Republic of China; and

23 (2) for programs of the Department of State to  
24 promote religious freedom in the People’s Republic  
25 of China and monitor transnational repression of re-

1 religious minority groups engaged in by the Govern-  
2 ment of the People's Republic of China.

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PROMOTION OF**  
4 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE PEOPLE'S RE-**  
5 **PUBLIC OF CHINA.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that the United States  
7 should promote religious freedom in the People's Republic  
8 of China by—

9 (1) designating the People's Republic of China  
10 as a country of particular concern for religious free-  
11 dom under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Inter-  
12 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
13 6442(b)(1)(A)(ii)) as long as the Government of the  
14 People's Republic of China continues to engage in  
15 particularly severe violations of religious freedom (as  
16 defined in section 3 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 6402));

17 (2) strengthening diplomacy relating to reli-  
18 gious freedom on behalf of Christians and other reli-  
19 gious minorities facing restrictions in the People's  
20 Republic of China, including through the widespread  
21 engagement of international partners to combat  
22 abuses of religious freedom committed by the Gov-  
23 ernment of the People's Republic of China;

1           (3) raising the cases of religious and political  
2       prisoners at the highest levels with officials of the  
3       People's Republic of China;

4           (4) calling on the Government of the People's  
5       Republic of China to unconditionally release all un-  
6       justly detained religious and political prisoners and  
7       ensure that detainees who have not yet been released  
8       are treated humanely with—

9           (A) access to family, the legal counsel of  
10       their choice, independent medical care, and  
11       international monitoring mechanisms; and

12           (B) the ability to practice their faith while  
13       in detention; and

14           (5) encouraging the global faith community to  
15       speak in solidarity with oppressed religious groups in  
16       the People's Republic of China.

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