

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5370

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 7, 2026

Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To state the policy of the United States with respect to international 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 “Combatting the Perse-
5 cution of Religious Groups in the People’s Republic of
6 China Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The People’s Republic of China has been designated
9 as a “country of particular concern for religious freedom”
10 under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the International Reli-

1 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)(ii))
2 since 1999 for engaging in particularly severe violations
3 of religious freedom (as defined in section 3 of such Act
4 (22 U.S.C. 6402)).

5 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

6 (a) HOLDING OFFICIALS OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUB-
7 LIC OF CHINA RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELI-
8 GIOUS FREEDOM ABUSES.—For any official of the Gov-
9 ernment of the People’s Republic of China that the United
10 States Government determines is responsible for or has
11 directly carried out abuses of international religious free-
12 dom, including those involving arbitrary detention, forced
13 sterilization, torture, forced labor, and serious restrictions
14 on freedom of religion or belief, expression, and movement
15 involving ethnic and religious minority groups, including
16 Tibetan Buddhists, Christians, Uyghur Muslims, and
17 Falun Gong practitioners, in the People’s Republic of
18 China or globally, it is the policy of the United States to
19 also determine whether such official has committed a gross
20 violation of internationally recognized human rights for
21 purposes of imposing sanctions under the Global
22 Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C.
23 10101 et seq.).

24 (b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAMMING TO PRO-
25 MOTE INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE

1 PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—It is the policy of the
2 United States—

3 (1) that the relevant bureaus of the Depart-
4 ment of State should support efforts to promote
5 international religious freedom in the People’s Re-
6 public of China; and

7 (2) for programs of the Department of State to
8 promote international religious freedom in the Peo-
9 ple’s Republic of China and monitor transnational
10 repression of ethnic and religious minority groups by
11 the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

12 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PROMOTION OF**
13 **INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN**
14 **THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

15 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
16 should promote international religious freedom in the Peo-
17 ple’s Republic of China by—

18 (1) strengthening diplomacy relating to reli-
19 gious freedom on behalf of ethnic and religious mi-
20 nority groups, including through the widespread en-
21 gagement of international partners to combat abuses
22 of religious freedom committed by the Government
23 of the People’s Republic of China;

1 (2) strengthening multilateral diplomacy to ad-
2 dress the persecution of ethnic and religious minor-
3 ity groups in the People’s Republic of China;

4 (3) raising the cases of political prisoners im-
5 prisoned for exercising their right to freedom of reli-
6 gious belief with officials at the highest levels of the
7 Government of the People’s Republic of China;

8 (4) calling on the Government of the People’s
9 Republic of China to end its harassment and perse-
10 cution of members of religious organizations, includ-
11 ing underground house church networks, uncondi-
12 tionally release all unjustly detained political pris-
13 oners imprisoned for exercising their right to free-
14 dom of religious belief, and ensure that detainees
15 who have not yet been released are treated humanely
16 with—

17 (A) access to family, the legal counsel of
18 their choice, independent medical care, and
19 international monitoring mechanisms; and

20 (B) the ability to practice their faith while
21 in detention;

22 (5) encouraging the global faith community to
23 speak in solidarity with oppressed religious groups in
24 the People’s Republic of China; and

25 (6) strengthening—

1 (A) programs to document and monitor
2 abuses; and

3 (B) support for defenders of internation-
4 ally recognized human rights and at-risk com-
5 munities, including dissidents and individuals
6 who have faced religious persecution by the
7 Government of the People's Republic of China
8 or the Chinese Communist Party.

9 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL BRIEFING.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador at Large for
11 International Religious Freedom shall provide an annual
12 briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on—

13 (1) sanctions imposed on officials of the Gov-
14 ernment of the People's Republic of China respon-
15 sible for gross violations of internationally recog-
16 nized human rights described in section 3(a);

17 (2) efforts to strengthen diplomacy relating to
18 international religious freedom; and

19 (3) plans or efforts to raise the cases of polit-
20 ical prisoners imprisoned for exercising their right to
21 freedom of religious belief with officials at the high-
22 est levels of the Government of the People's Republic
23 of China.

1 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-

3 gressional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the

5 Senate; and

6 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the

7 House of Representatives.

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