

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4211

To prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2000

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. GREENWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

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 “Global Democracy Pro-
5 motion Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Freedom of speech is a fundamental Amer-
2 ican value. The ability to exercise the right to free
3 speech, which includes the “right of the people
4 peaceably to assemble, and to petition the govern-
5 ment for a redress of grievances” is essential to a
6 thriving democracy and is protected under the
7 United States Constitution.

8 (2) The promotion of democracy is a principal
9 goal of United States foreign policy and critical to
10 achieving sustainable development. It is enhanced
11 through the encouragement of democratic institu-
12 tions and the promotion of an independent and po-
13 litically active civil society in developing countries.

14 (3) Limiting eligibility for United States devel-
15 opment and humanitarian assistance upon the will-
16 ingness of a foreign nongovernmental organization
17 to forgo its right to use its own funds to address,
18 within the democratic process, a particular issue af-
19 fecting the citizens of its own country directly under-
20 mines a key goal of United States foreign policy and
21 would violate the United States Constitution if ap-
22 plied to United States-based organizations.

23 (4) Similarly, limiting the eligibility for United
24 States assistance on a foreign nongovernmental or-
25 ganization’s willingness to forgo its right to provide,

1 with its own funds, medical services that are legal in
2 its own country and would be legal if provided in the
3 United States constitutes unjustifiable interference
4 with the ability of independent organizations to serve
5 the critical health needs of their fellow citizens and
6 demonstrates a disregard and disrespect for the laws
7 of sovereign nations as well as for the laws of the
8 United States.

9 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN NONGOVERNMENTAL**
10 **ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL ORGA-**
11 **NIZATIONS UNDER PART I OF THE FOREIGN**
12 **ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.**

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in deter-
14 mining eligibility for assistance authorized under part I
15 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151
16 et seq.), foreign nongovernmental organizations and multi-
17 lateral organizations—

18 (1) shall not be subject to requirements relating
19 to the use of non-United States Government funds
20 for advocacy and lobbying activities other than those
21 that apply to United States nongovernmental organi-
22 zations receiving assistance under part I of such
23 Act; and

24 (2) shall not be ineligible for such assistance
25 solely on the basis of health or medical services pro-

1 vided by such organizations with non-United States
2 Government funds if such services do not violate the
3 laws of the country in which they are being provided
4 and would not violate United States Federal law if
5 provided in the United States.

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