

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 755

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. GREENWOOD, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. OLVER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GILMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HORN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BENTSEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. STARK, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DEUTSCH, Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. McCARTHY of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. FROST, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. SAWYER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. BONIOR) 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

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 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) It is a fundamental principle of American
9 medical ethics and practice that health care pro-
10 viders should, at all times, deal honestly and openly
11 with patients. Any attempt to subvert the private
12 and sensitive physician-patient relationship would be
13 intolerable in the United States and is an unjustifi-
14 able intrusion into the practices of health care pro-
15 viders when attempted in other countries.

16 (2) Freedom of speech is a fundamental Amer-
17 ican value. The ability to exercise the right to free
18 speech, which includes the “right of the people
19 peaceably to assemble, and to petition the govern-
20 ment for a redress of grievances” is essential to a
21 thriving democracy and is protected under the
22 United States Constitution.

23 (3) The promotion of democracy is a principal
24 goal of United States foreign policy and critical to

1 achieving sustainable development. It is enhanced
2 through the encouragement of democratic institu-
3 tions and the promotion of an independent and po-
4 litically active civil society in developing countries.

5 (4) Limiting eligibility for United States devel-
6 opment and humanitarian assistance upon the will-
7 ingness of a foreign nongovernmental organization
8 to forgo its right to use its own funds to address,
9 within the democratic process, a particular issue af-
10 fecting the citizens of its own country directly under-
11 mines a key goal of United States foreign policy and
12 would violate the United States Constitution if ap-
13 plied to United States-based organizations.

14 (5) Similarly, limiting the eligibility for United
15 States assistance on a foreign nongovernmental or-
16 ganization's willingness to forgo its right to provide,
17 with its own funds, medical services that are legal in
18 its own country and would be legal if provided in the
19 United States constitutes unjustifiable interference
20 with the ability of independent organizations to serve
21 the critical health needs of their fellow citizens and
22 demonstrates a disregard and disrespect for the laws
23 of sovereign nations as well as for the laws of the
24 United States.

1 SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN NONGOVERNMENTAL
2 ORGANIZATIONS UNDER PART I OF THE FOR-
3 EIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regula-
5 tion, or policy, in determining eligibility for assistance au-
6 thorized under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of
7 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), foreign nongovernmental
8 organizations—

