

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4879

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

MARCH 18, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

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

9 (2) Freedom of speech is a fundamental Amer-
10 ican value. The ability to exercise the right to free
11 speech, which includes the “right of the people
12 peaceably to assemble, and to petition the govern-
13 ment for a redress of grievances” is essential to a
14 thriving democracy and is protected under the
15 United States Constitution.

16 (3) The promotion of democracy is a principal
17 goal of United States foreign policy and critical to
18 achieving sustainable development. It is enhanced
19 through the encouragement of democratic institu-
20 tions and the promotion of an independent and po-
21 litically active civil society in developing countries.

22 (4) Limiting eligibility for United States devel-
23 opment and humanitarian assistance upon the will-
24 ingness of a foreign nongovernmental organization
25 to forgo its right to use its own funds to address,

1 within the democratic process, a particular issue af-
2 fecting the citizens of its own country directly under-
3 mines a key goal of United States foreign policy and
4 would violate the United States Constitution if ap-
5 plied to United States-based organizations.

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

17 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN NONGOVERNMENTAL**
18 **ORGANIZATIONS UNDER PART I OF THE FOR-**
19 **EIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.**

20 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regula-
21 tion, or policy, in determining eligibility for assistance au-
22 thorized under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of
23 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), foreign nongovernmental
24 organizations—

1 (1) shall not be ineligible for such assistance
2 solely on the basis of health or medical services in-
3 cluding counseling and referral services, provided by
4 such organizations with non-United States Govern-
5 ment funds if such services do not violate the laws
6 of the country in which they are being provided and
7 would not violate United States Federal law if pro-
8 vided in the United States; and

9 (2) shall not be subject to requirements relating
10 to the use of non-United States Government funds
11 for advocacy and lobbying activities other than those
12 that apply to United States nongovernmental organi-
13 zations receiving assistance under part I of such
14 Act.

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