

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 345

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the President, the Vice President, Members of Congress, and other officers of the executive branch from lobbying on behalf of countries designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom for 10 years after leaving office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Mr. TROTT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the President, the Vice President, Members of Congress, and other officers of the executive branch from lobbying on behalf of countries designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom for 10 years after leaving office, 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 “Stop Foreign Influence
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING FOR COUNTRIES OF**
2 **PARTICULAR CONCERN.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING.—Section 207 of
4 title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new subsection:

6 “(m) ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO
7 COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the restric-
9 tions contained in subsection (f), any person who
10 serves in a position described in paragraph (2) and
11 who, within 10 years after leaving that position,
12 knowingly—

13 “(A) represents a country of particular
14 concern before any Member, officer, or em-
15 ployee of either House of Congress, or any offi-
16 cer or employee of a department or agency of
17 the executive branch, with the intent to influ-
18 ence a decision of such officer, employee, or
19 Member, in his or her official capacity, or

20 “(B) aids or advises a country of par-
21 ticular concern with the intent to influence a
22 decision of any Member, officer, or employee of
23 either House of Congress, or any officer or em-
24 ployee of a department or agency of the execu-
25 tive branch, in his or her official capacity,

1 shall be punished as provided in section 216 of this
2 title.

3 “(2) POSITIONS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The positions referred
5 to in paragraph (1) are the following:

6 “(i) The President.

7 “(ii) The Vice President.

8 “(iii) A Member of Congress.

9 “(iv) A covered appointee position.

10 “(B) COVERED APPOINTEE POSITION.—

11 For purposes of this paragraph, an individual
12 serves in a ‘covered appointee position’ if the
13 individual serves—

14 “(i) except as provided in clause (ii),
15 in a position in an Executive agency to
16 which the individual was appointed by the
17 President, by and with the advice and con-
18 sent of the Senate;

19 “(ii) in a position that is held by an
20 active duty commissioned officer of the
21 uniformed services who is serving in a
22 grade or rank for which the pay grade (as
23 specified in section 201 of title 37) is pay
24 grade O–7 or higher; or

25 “(iii) in any of the following positions:

1 “(I) Deputy Director of National
2 Intelligence.

3 “(II) Deputy Director of the
4 Central Intelligence Agency.

5 “(III) Associate Deputy Director
6 of the Central Intelligence Agency.

7 “(IV) The Director of the Na-
8 tional Clandestine Service.

9 “(V) Chief of Station for the
10 Central Intelligence Agency at an em-
11 bassy or consulate of the United
12 States.

13 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this sub-
14 section—

15 “(A) the term ‘Executive agency’ means an
16 Executive agency as defined by section 105 of
17 title 5, including the Executive Office of the
18 President;

19 “(B) the term ‘Member of Congress’ has
20 the meaning given that term in subsection
21 (e)(9) of this section; and

22 “(C) the term ‘country of particular con-
23 cern’ means—

24 “(i) a country which, at any time dur-
25 ing the 5-year period ending on the date

an individual who serves in a position described in paragraph (2) represents, aids, or advises such country, is designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442); and

“(ii) any entity owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by the government of a country described in clause (i).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any individual who, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, leaves a position to which section 207(m) of title 18, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), applies.

SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF 20-PERCENT EXEMPTION FOR FORMER PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND OTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICERS ENGAGING IN LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.

(a) ELIMINATION OF EXEMPTION.—Section 3(10) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602(10)) is amended to read as follows:

“(10) LOBBYIST.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
2 subparagraph (B), term ‘lobbyist’ means any
3 individual who is employed or retained by a cli-
4 ent for financial or other compensation for serv-
5 ices that include more than one lobbying con-
6 tact.

7 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
8 does not apply to an individual with respect to
9 a client if the individual’s lobbying activities
10 constitute less than 20 percent of the time en-
11 gaged in the services provided by such indi-
12 vidual to that client over a 3-month period. The
13 previous sentence does not apply to an indi-
14 vidual with respect to a client if the client is a
15 country of particular concern (as defined in
16 paragraph (3)(C) of section 207(m) of title 18,
17 United States Code) and the individual held a
18 position to which section 207(m) of title 18,
19 United States Code, applies.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
21 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to lobbying contacts
22 made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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