

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6877

To support and promote the human rights of Southern Mongolians in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To support and promote the human rights of Southern Mongolians 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 “Southern Mongolian  
5 Human Rights Policy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) According to the China Statistical Yearbook  
2 for 2021, more than 6,000,000 ethnic Mongolians  
3 live in the People’s Republic of China, of which some  
4 two-thirds live in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous  
5 Region, and many others in three prefectures and  
6 eight counties designated as autonomous for Mongo-  
7 lians by the Government of the People’s Republic of  
8 China.

9           (2) Over the centuries, successive central Chi-  
10 nese governments have promoted the migration of  
11 Chinese people into the area currently administered  
12 as the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and  
13 today only about 18 percent of the population of the  
14 Region is counted as ethnically Mongolian.

15           (3) The Constitution and 1984 Regional Ethnic  
16 Autonomy Law of the People’s Republic of China  
17 guarantee numerous rights to Mongolian and other  
18 designated minorities, including autonomous govern-  
19 ment, protection for religions and cultures, control  
20 over local economic development, and management  
21 of local natural resources, and the right “to use and  
22 develop their own spoken and written languages and  
23 their freedom to preserve or reform their own folk-  
24 ways and customs,” including to “use textbooks in

1 their own languages and use these languages as the  
2 media of instruction”.

3 (4) In 2020, officials in the Inner Mongolia Au-  
4 tonomous Region announced a new policy to effec-  
5 tively replace Mongolian as the principal language of  
6 instruction with Chinese, in the subjects of history,  
7 politics, and literature, and shut down Bainu, the  
8 only Mongolian-language-based social media website  
9 based in the country. Beginning in September 2023,  
10 schools across the region largely removed Mongolian-  
11 language instruction from elementary and secondary  
12 schools throughout the region. Reports indicate that  
13 high school entrance exams are conducted in Chinese  
14 exclusively as of 2025, and college entrance exams  
15 will be conducted in Chinese exclusively by 2028.  
16 The People’s Republic of China authorities have  
17 banned Mongolian language books from bookstores  
18 and removed signs in the unique, vertically written  
19 Mongolian script from schools, buildings, streets,  
20 and parks.

21 (5) The People’s Republic of China officials  
22 launched “patriotic education” campaigns at schools  
23 and universities throughout the Inner Mongolia Au-  
24 tonomous Region, designed to suppress manifesta-  
25 tions of Mongolian identity in favor of the common

1 Chinese national identity and encourage “all ethnic  
2 groups to accept the great mother country, Chinese  
3 nationality, Chinese culture, [and the] Chinese Com-  
4 munist Party.” In response to the new education  
5 policy, tens of thousands of Southern Mongolians in  
6 the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region launched  
7 protests, in which some 300,000 Southern Mongo-  
8 lian students boycotted school and teachers went on  
9 strike, and some individuals reportedly committed  
10 suicide in protest. Security authorities responded  
11 harshly by arresting, beating, detaining, jailing, and  
12 placing under home confinement some estimated  
13 8,000 to 10,000 Southern Mongolians.

14 (6) Chinese authorities now fully control all ac-  
15 tivities of the Chinggis Khan Mausoleum in the  
16 Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, including the  
17 schedule, scale, and ticketing of ritual ceremonies  
18 and approval and monitoring of gatherings, denying  
19 Southern Mongolians the ability to carry out tradi-  
20 tional rituals and observances free of government in-  
21 terference and profiteering. This has broken an  
22 eight-century-long memorial tradition at the site,  
23 which has served as an historical and cultural rep-  
24 resentation of the Mongolian identity.

1           (7) The People’s Republic of China policies  
2           have undermined the religious heritage of Southern  
3           Mongolians, many of whom follow Tibetan Bud-  
4           dhism, including through the destruction of mon-  
5           asteries and temples during the Cultural Revolution,  
6           and interference in the ability to choose their own  
7           religious leaders. Restrictions on travel and freedom  
8           of religion or belief inhibit the ability of Southern  
9           Mongolians to affiliate, engage, and communicate  
10          with Mongol communities around the world, espe-  
11          cially those with cultural, linguistic and religious  
12          links to people in the country of Mongolia and the  
13          Buryatia, Kamykia, and Tuvan regions of the Rus-  
14          sian Federation, resulting in a diminution of their  
15          common cultural heritage.

16          (8) The People’s Republic of China policies  
17          have effectively ended the traditional Southern Mon-  
18          golian economic livelihood of pastoralism, a key  
19          marker of Mongol identity, by forcibly resettling  
20          more than 246,000 nomadic households to urban  
21          and agricultural areas where Mandarin language  
22          and Chinese cultural elements dominate. These poli-  
23          cies have cut off Southern Mongolians from their an-  
24          cestral lands and increased their economic depend-  
25          ence on the state, eroding their social cohesion. This

1 has led to severe social and psychological impacts,  
2 including mental illness and economic deprivation.

3 (9) The environment of the Inner Mongolia Au-  
4 tonomous Region has degraded under the People's  
5 Republic of China policies that have removed no-  
6 mads, ending traditional stewardship of grazing  
7 lands, and exploited natural resources through min-  
8 ing and heavy industry without sufficient stake-  
9 holder input from local inhabitants, resulting in air  
10 and water pollution and severe health problems  
11 among local Southern Mongolians. Bayan Obo, the  
12 largest rare earth mine in the world, which holds 70  
13 percent of the world's rare earth elements reserve  
14 and the largest known deposit of thorium, is the  
15 source of toxic waste, including radioactive thorium  
16 that has been seeping into groundwater.

17 (10) Southern Mongolian dissidents, activists,  
18 writers, bloggers, lawyers, and their family members  
19 who have attempted to exercise their freedom of ex-  
20 pression and defend their legal rights have been de-  
21 tained, arrested, imprisoned, and placed under home  
22 confinement by the People's Republic of China au-  
23 thorities. Activist Yanjindulam remains under home  
24 confinement after being released from prison, artist  
25 Ashidaa is still under home confinement, lawyer

1 Huhbulag has been detained multiple times, and dis-  
2 sident Almaz has been frequently harassed and de-  
3 tained by the authorities.

4 (11) Authorities detained rights activist Hada,  
5 who promoted self-determination and democracy for  
6 Southern Mongolians, in 1995 and sentenced him to  
7 15 years in 1996. He was held without legal basis  
8 for an additional four years following the expiration  
9 of his sentence. Hada was subsequently placed under  
10 home confinement until his disappearance in Sep-  
11 tember 2020. On February 7, 2025, Hada was  
12 moved to an undisclosed location from a hospital in  
13 Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and  
14 hospital staff refused to disclose his whereabouts  
15 and health conditions to family members. In 2011,  
16 Hada's wife Xinna, an outspoken critic of human  
17 rights violations in Southern Mongolia, was arrested  
18 before being sentenced to three years in prison, sus-  
19 pended for five years. Their son Uiles was sentenced  
20 at the age of 17 to two years in prison on the basis  
21 of multiple fabricated charges. The family's welfare  
22 and whereabouts have been unknown since Sep-  
23 tember 2020.

24 (12) Chinese authorities have subjected South-  
25 ern Mongolians to transnational repression. Since

1 2009, at least five Southern Mongolian dissidents in  
2 exile have been forcibly returned to China, including  
3 from Mongolia. On May 3, 2023, Chinese police offi-  
4 cers detained Lhamjab Borjigin, a long-time dis-  
5 sident writer and historian, in Ulaanbaatar, Mon-  
6 golia, and forcibly returned him to China on the  
7 same day. Lhamjab Borjigin had escaped from home  
8 confinement on March 6, 2023, after he was sen-  
9 tenced to one year in prison, suspended for two  
10 years, for writing a book entitled “China’s Cultural  
11 Revolution”.

12 (13) The Congressional-Executive Commission  
13 on China reported that “[d]uring the Commission’s  
14 2025 reporting year, Chinese Communist Party and  
15 government authorities implemented policies that  
16 limited the freedom of ethnic minority groups to ex-  
17 press their cultural and religious identities in con-  
18 travention of the PRC Regional Ethnic Autonomy  
19 Law and international human rights treaties, includ-  
20 ing the International Covenant on Civil and Political  
21 Rights and the International Covenant on Economic,  
22 Social and Cultural Rights”.

23 (14) The Government of the People’s Republic  
24 of China’s policies have undermined the ability of  
25 Southern Mongolians to exercise their rights under

1 the People's Republic of China's constitution and  
2 law, and under international law, to safeguard and  
3 develop their own language, culture, religion or be-  
4 lief, and economic livelihoods, as part of a deliberate  
5 effort to erase their distinct Mongolian culture and  
6 Sinicize the Southern Mongolian people, which some  
7 observers have called a form of cultural genocide.

8 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

9 It is the policy of the United States—

10 (1) to support and promote human rights of  
11 Southern Mongolians in the People's Republic of  
12 China, including the fundamental freedoms of ex-  
13 pression, peaceful assembly, and religion or belief  
14 and rights related to arbitrary detention, discrimina-  
15 tion and other abuses;

16 (2) to support the aspirations of the Southern  
17 Mongolian people to safeguard their cultural and lin-  
18 guistic heritage, including the ability to use and pro-  
19 mote their own spoken and written language, and  
20 protect their traditional pastoralist way of life that  
21 they have maintained for thousands of years; and

22 (3) to press the Government of the People's Re-  
23 public of China to allow the Southern Mongolian  
24 people the ability to enjoy the autonomy guaranteed

1 to them by the Constitution and 1984 Regional Eth-  
2 nic Autonomy Law, including in education.

3 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the United States supports the legitimate  
6 aspirations of the Southern Mongolian people to  
7 safeguard their cultural and linguistic heritage and  
8 practice their traditional way of life without threat  
9 of forced assimilation policies of the Government of  
10 the People's Republic of China and the Chinese  
11 Communist Party;

12 (2) the President should—

13 (A) condemn human rights abuses against  
14 Southern Mongolians by authorities of the Peo-  
15 ple's Republic of China; and

16 (B) call on such authorities to allow South-  
17 ern Mongolians the ability to exercise the au-  
18 tonomy guaranteed under the constitution and  
19 law of the People's Republic of China, including  
20 to conduct their affairs and receive education in  
21 their own spoken and written language;

22 (3) the Secretary of State should—

23 (A) work with United States allies and  
24 partners and through multilateral institutions

1 to advocate for the human rights of Southern  
2 Mongolians;

3 (B) urge the United Nations Human  
4 Rights Council to prioritize assessment of the  
5 human rights of Southern Mongolians in its re-  
6 views of the People’s Republic of China compli-  
7 ance with international human rights law, in-  
8 cluding through the Universal Periodic Review  
9 process, and to request travel by United Na-  
10 tions officials to assess conditions of Southern  
11 Mongolians in the People’s Republic of China;

12 (C) promote the right of Southern Mongo-  
13 lians to protect their spoken and written lan-  
14 guage;

15 (D) promote the freedom of religion or be-  
16 lief Southern Mongolians;

17 (E) work with the United Nations Edu-  
18 cational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
19 (UNESCO) to identify and protect world herit-  
20 age sites in areas of traditional Mongolian cul-  
21 ture in the People’s Republic of China; and

22 (F) coordinate closely with the inter-  
23 national community on targeted sanctions and  
24 visa restrictions;

1           (4) the United States companies and individ-  
2           uals operating in areas designated as autonomous  
3           for Mongolians in the People’s Republic of China  
4           should take steps to ensure that their commercial  
5           activities do not contribute to human rights viola-  
6           tions, undermine the autonomous rights of Southern  
7           Mongolians, or contribute to the environmental deg-  
8           radation or resettlement of nomads in those areas,  
9           and are consistent with the United Nations Guiding  
10          Principles on Business and Human Rights; and

11          (5) the United States Ambassador to the Peo-  
12          ple’s Republic of China should expeditiously seek to  
13          meet with Hada and his family members, as well as  
14          other Southern Mongolian dissidents, activists, writ-  
15          ers, and lawyers who are either in prison or under  
16          detention or home confinement.

17 **SEC. 5. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

18          (a) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS.—The Ambassador at  
19          Large for International Religious Freedom shall, con-  
20          sistent with the duties under sections 101(c) and 102(a)  
21          of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22  
22          U.S.C. 6411(c), 6412(a)), assist the Secretary of State to  
23          assess the impact of the restrictions on Tibetan Buddhism  
24          by the Government of the People’s Republic of China on  
25          the religious freedom of—

1           (1) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the  
2           People’s Republic of China who are not Tibetan; and

3           (2) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism outside  
4           the People’s Republic of China, including their abil-  
5           ity to travel to and share information with practi-  
6           tioners inside the People’s Republic of China.

7           (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS  
8           FREEDOM.—The Secretary of State, with the assistance  
9           of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious  
10          Freedom, shall ensure that the report required under sec-  
11          tions 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act  
12          of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(c), 6412(b)) assesses, as appro-  
13          priate, the impact of the restrictions on Tibetan Buddhism  
14          by the Government of the People’s Republic of China on  
15          the religious freedom of—

16           (1) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the  
17           People’s Republic of China who are not Tibetan; and

18           (2) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism outside  
19           the People’s Republic of China, including their abil-  
20           ity to travel to and share information with practi-  
21           tioners inside the People’s Republic of China.

1 **SEC. 6. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR**  
2 **HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST SOUTHERN**  
3 **MONGOLIANS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF**  
4 **CHINA; IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

5 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-  
8 nually thereafter, the President shall submit to the  
9 appropriate congressional committees a report that  
10 identifies each foreign person, including any official  
11 of the Government of the People's Republic of  
12 China, that the President determines is responsible  
13 for any of the following with respect to Southern  
14 Mongolians in the People's Republic of China:

15 (A) Torture.

16 (B) Cruel, inhuman, or degrading treat-  
17 ment or punishment.

18 (C) Prolonged or arbitrary detention with-  
19 out charges and trial.

20 (D) Causing the disappearance of persons  
21 by the abduction and clandestine detention of  
22 those persons.

23 (E) Other flagrant denial of the right to  
24 life, liberty, or the security of persons.

25 (F) Other gross violations of human rights  
26 committed against Southern Mongolians.

1           (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph  
2           (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may  
3           include a classified annex.

4           (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President  
5           should impose sanctions pursuant to one or more of the  
6           following authorities with respect to each foreign person  
7           identified in the report required by subsection (a):

8           (1) The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-  
9           countability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

10          (2) Section 7031(c)(1)(A) of the Department of  
11          State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
12          Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law  
13          118–47; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note).

14          (3) Section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration  
15          and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)).

16          (c) SUNSET.—This section, and any sanctions im-  
17          posed under this section, shall terminate on the date that  
18          is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

19          (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20          (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
21          TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
22          mittees” means—

23                  (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
24                  and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
25                  Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
2 the Committee on Financial Services of the  
3 House of Representatives.

4 (2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
5 son” means an individual or entity that is not a  
6 United States person.

7 (3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
8 “United States person” means—

9 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-  
10 fully admitted for permanent residence to the  
11 United States;

12 (B) an entity organized under the laws of  
13 the United States or of any jurisdiction within  
14 the United States, including a foreign branch of  
15 such an entity; or

16 (C) any person in the United States.

17 **SEC. 7. VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN THE MONGO-**  
18 **LIAN LANGUAGE.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE.—Not later than  
20 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
21 Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for  
22 Global Media shall establish, through the Voice of Amer-  
23 ica, a service to provide Voice of America Mongolian lan-  
24 guage programming to Mongolian language speakers in

1 Mongolia, the People’s Republic of China, and the Russian  
2 Federation.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date  
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer  
5 of the United States Agency for Global Media shall submit  
6 to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and  
7 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives a report detailing the implementation of this  
9 section, including a description of programming and  
10 broadcast hours.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
12 authorized to be appropriated to the Voice of America for  
13 purposes of carrying out this section \$2,000,000 for each  
14 of fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

15 **SEC. 8. SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN MONGOLIAN CULTURE.**

16 (a) REPRESSED CULTURES PRESERVATION.—

17 (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
18 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
19 fund activities to help preserve cultures endangered  
20 by the repressive policies of the People’s Republic of  
21 China, including those of Southern Mongolians, Ti-  
22 betans, Uyghurs, and Hong Kongers, through the  
23 World Cultures Center and other programs designed  
24 to promote preservation efforts, as well as research,  
25 exhibitions, and education programming.

1           (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3 of the Smithsonian Institution shall submit to the  
4 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Sen-  
5 ate and the Committee on House Administration of  
6 the House of Representatives a report on its plans  
7 to help preserve cultures endangered by the policies  
8 of the People’s Republic of China, including those of  
9 Southern Mongolians, Tibetans, Uyghurs, and Hong  
10 Kongers.

11           (b) ASSISTANCE FOR CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS,  
12 MUSEUMS, AND LIBRARIES.—

13           (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
14 Congress that the Director of the Institute for Mu-  
15 seum and Library Sciences should establish a grant  
16 program, or make available grants through an exist-  
17 ing program, to support efforts by diaspora commu-  
18 nities in the United States to preserve their cultural  
19 heritage that is threatened by the repressive policies  
20 of the People’s Republic of China, including the ef-  
21 forts of Southern Mongolians, Tibetans, Uyghurs,  
22 and Hong Kongers.

23           (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director  
25 of the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences

1 shall submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
2 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the  
3 Committee on Education and Workforce of the  
4 House of Representatives a report on the feasibility  
5 of establishing a grant program, or to otherwise  
6 make available grants through an existing program,  
7 to support efforts by diaspora communities in the  
8 United States to preserve their cultural heritage that  
9 is threatened by the repressive policies of the Peo-  
10 ple’s Republic of China, including those of Southern  
11 Mongolians, Tibetans, Uyghurs, and Hong Kongers,  
12 including efforts to engage with such diaspora com-  
13 munities.

14 **SEC. 9. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTHERN MON-**  
15 **GOLIA.**

16 (a) **DECLARATION OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the  
17 United States to support the right of Southern Mongolians  
18 to make decisions in accordance with principles of auton-  
19 omy regarding their economic development, including the  
20 ability to maintain traditional livelihoods, such as pas-  
21 toralism, as well as cultural preservation, environmental  
22 sustainability, and resource extraction, in areas designated  
23 as autonomous for Southern Mongolians in the People’s  
24 Republic of China.

1           (b) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—  
2 The Secretary of the Treasury should instruct the United  
3 States executive director of each international financial in-  
4 stitution to use the voice and vote of the United States  
5 to support financing of projects in areas designated as au-  
6 tonomous for Mongolians in the People’s Republic of  
7 China if such projects do not provide incentives for the  
8 migration and settlement of non-Mongolians into Southern  
9 Mongolian areas or facilitate the transfer of ownership of  
10 Southern Mongolian land and natural resources to non-  
11 Mongolians, are based on a thorough needs-assessment,  
12 foster self-sufficiency of the Southern Mongolian people,  
13 respect Mongolian culture, traditions, and traditional live-  
14 lihoods, and are subject to effective monitoring.

15           (c) PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT.—The Secretary  
16 of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce,  
17 should encourage United States businesses and individuals  
18 that are engaged in commerce or investing in enterprises  
19 in areas designated as autonomous for Mongolians in the  
20 People’s Republic of China to be guided by the United  
21 Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human  
22 Rights, including the creation, in consultation with other  
23 relevant Departments, of a business advisory covering  
24 such areas, with particular focus on the mining and ex-  
25 tractive industries sector, that provides strict guidelines

1 not to directly or indirectly contribute to the violation of  
2 the human rights of local Mongolians, harm to their com-  
3 munities, or destruction of the natural environment and  
4 traditional Mongolian way of life.

5 **SEC. 10. RARE EARTH MINING IN SOUTHERN MONGOLIA.**

6 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in  
8 consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit  
9 to the appropriate congressional committees a report on  
10 the impact of large mining operations for rare earth min-  
11 erals in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, in par-  
12 ticular the Bayan-Obo mine, on the livelihoods of South  
13 Mongolian residents, including forced displacement and  
14 serious environmental degradation, and on United States  
15 national security interests related to the operation and po-  
16 tential expansion of rare earth mining operations.

17 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
18 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-  
19 gressional committees” has the meaning given the term  
20 in section 6(d)(1).

○