

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2502

To deny entry into the United States of current or former government officials engaged in the forced repatriation of Uyghurs and other designated aliens to the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To deny entry into the United States of current or former government officials engaged in the forced repatriation of Uyghurs and other designated aliens to 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 “Preventing the Forced
5 Return of Uyghurs Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DENIAL OF ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES OF**
2 **CURRENT OR FORMER OFFICIALS ENGAGED**
3 **IN THE FORCED REPATRIATION OF UYGHURS**
4 **AND OTHER DESIGNATED ALIENS TO THE**
5 **PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

6 (a) DENIAL OF ENTRY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of law and except as provided in subsection
9 (b), the Secretary of State may not issue any visa,
10 and the Attorney General or the Secretary of Home-
11 land Security may not admit to the United States or
12 grant any immigration benefit or status to any cur-
13 rent or former government official who the Secretary
14 of State determines is or was responsible for, or
15 complicit in, the forced departure from their country
16 of last habitual residence and return to the People's
17 Republic of China of—

18 (A) any Uyghur individual; or

19 (B) any alien who—

20 (i) is a member of any other ethnic or
21 religious group; and

22 (ii) is more likely than not to be sub-
23 ject to persecution by the Government of
24 the People's Republic of China, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary of State.

1 (2) REFERRAL TO OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS
2 CONTROL.—Concurrent with the application of para-
3 graph (1) to an official described in that subsection,
4 the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Office of
5 Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the
6 Treasury to determine whether to apply sanctions
7 authorities in accordance with United States law to
8 block the transfer of property and interests in prop-
9 erty, and all financial transactions, in the United
10 States involving such official.

11 (b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the
12 application of subsection (a) with respect to an official de-
13 scribed in that subsection if the Secretary determines
14 that—

15 (1) such a waiver is in the national interest of
16 the United States; or

17 (2) the circumstances that caused the official to
18 be ineligible under that subsection for a visa or an
19 immigration benefit or status have changed suffi-
20 ciently.

21 (c) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180
24 days thereafter until the date on which this section
25 ceases to have effect under subsection (d), the Sec-

1 retary of State shall submit to the appropriate com-
2 mittees of Congress a report that includes, for the
3 period covered by the report—

4 (A) information on each official denied ad-
5 mission or an immigration benefit or status
6 under subsection (a)(1); and

7 (B) a list of waivers granted under sub-
8 section (b), and the justification for each waiv-
9 er.

10 (2) FORM.—Each report submitted under this
11 subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form
12 but may include a classified annex.

13 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
14 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
15 priate committees of Congress” means—

16 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
17 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
18 ate; and

19 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
20 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
21 Representatives.

22 (d) TERMINATION.—This section shall cease to have
23 effect on the date that is 5 years after the date of the
24 enactment of this Act.

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