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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

No. 180

House of Representatives

The House met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 13, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA COMSTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Dan C. Cummins, Skyline Wesleyan Church, San Diego, California, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and Governor of all Nations, we give praise to Your Name as we stand on this 159th anniversary of the opening of this beautiful Chamber that has witnessed this Nation's rich history. May God bless the House of Representatives with another century and a half of doing the people's bidding in maintaining family, faith, life, and freedom.

We pray that the wisdom of King Solomon be given its leadership for guidance to lead us in the paths of righteousness. And may they possess the ingenuity of King Uzziah to craft and create new means to prosperity for us all. Lastly, give them the fear of the Lord, for without it, no man shall possess Your wisdom.

We pray for peaceful transition of power, for racial reconciliation, for civility in governance, and peace and goodwill for all mankind.

In that Holy Christmas Child's name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 3:12 p.m.:

That the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill S. 2971.

That the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill S. 2854.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 3:55 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3084.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 5:44 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 40.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6282.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6138.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4680.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5612.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4465.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5948.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6323.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4352.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5099.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H7579

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5790.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 875.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6304.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6477.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6452.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6130.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6450.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6451.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6431.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6400.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

FRANK R. WOLF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1150) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the “Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings; policy; sense of Congress.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

Sec. 102. Annual Report on International Religious Freedom.

Sec. 103. Training for Foreign Service officers.

Sec. 104. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
Sec. 201. Special Adviser for International Religious Freedom.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Sec. 301. Non-state actor designations.

Sec. 302. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

Sec. 303. Report to Congress.

Sec. 304. Presidential waiver.

Sec. 305. Publication in the Federal Register.

TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sec. 401. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.

TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sec. 501. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 601. Miscellaneous provisions.

Sec. 602. Clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) *FINDINGS*.—Section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is understood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs and the right not to profess or practice any religion.” before “Governments”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following: “A policy or practice of routinely denying applications for visas for religious workers in a country can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by inserting “and the specific targeting of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of their beliefs” after “religious persecution”; and

(B) by inserting “and in regions where non-state actors exercise significant political power and territorial control” before the period at the end.

(b) *POLICY*.—Section 2(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E);

(2) by striking the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(1) *IN GENERAL*.—The following shall be the policy of the United States:”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) *EVOLVING POLICIES AND COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC RESPONSES*.—Because the promotion of international religious freedom protects human rights, advances democracy abroad, and advances United States interests in stability, security, and development globally, the promotion of international religious freedom requires new and evolving policies and diplomatic responses that—

“(A) are drawn from the expertise of the national security agencies, the diplomatic services, and other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations; and

“(B) are coordinated across and carried out by the entire range of Federal agencies.”.

(c) *SENSE OF CONGRESS*.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a policy or practice by the government of any foreign country of routinely denying visa applications for religious workers can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country; and

(2) the United States Government should seek to reverse any such policy by reviewing the entirety of the bilateral relationship between such country and the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (16);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (11), and (12) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (14), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION*.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(11) *NON-STATE ACTOR*.—The term ‘non-state actor’ means a nonsovereign entity that—

“(A) exercises significant political power and territorial control;

“(B) is outside the control of a sovereign government; and

“(C) often employs violence in pursuit of its objectives.”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (14), as redesignated, the following:

“(15) *SPECIAL WATCH LIST*.—The term ‘Special Watch List’ means the Special Watch List described in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii).”; and

(5) in paragraph (16), as redesignated—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (v) and (vi), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) not professing a particular religion, or any religion;”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “conscience, non-theistic views, or” before “religious belief or practice”; and

(ii) by inserting “forcibly compelling non-believers or non-theists to recant their beliefs or to convert,” after “forced religious conversion.”.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Section 101 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, and shall report directly to the Secretary of State” before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “responsibility” and inserting “responsibilities”; and

(ii) by striking “shall be to advance” and inserting the following: “shall be to—

“(A) advance”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) integrate United States international religious freedom policies and strategies into the foreign policy efforts of the United States.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the principal adviser to” before “the Secretary of State”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) contacts with nongovernmental organizations that have an impact on the state of religious freedom in their respective societies or regions, or internationally.”;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) *COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES*.—In order to promote religious freedom as an interest of United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at Large—

“(A) shall coordinate international religious freedom policies across all programs, projects, and activities of the United States; and

“(B) should participate in any interagency processes on issues in which the promotion of international religious freedom policy can advance United States national security interests, including in democracy promotion, stability, security, and development globally.”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the Office” and all that follows and inserting “appropriate staff for the Office, including full-time equivalent positions and other temporary staff