

week, Xi Jinping is hosting Iran, North Korea, Russia, and other hostile actors for a military parade. They are clearly sending a message to the United States and our allies that they are more united than ever.

Time is of the essence. We need to expedite the AUKUS partners' access to markets and make sure this defense pact is working as intended.

Bureaucratic delays to the AUKUS agreement undermine our ability to counter threats and to maintain technological and defense superiority.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to send a strong message to our adversaries and friends alike that the United States is serious about preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific with our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Foreign Arms Sales Task Force co-chairs, Representatives ZINKE and DEAN, for leading this bill with me.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4233, the ARMOR Act, legislation that I was proud to work on with Representative KIM and Representative ZINKE.

AUKUS was a historic initiative launched under the Biden administration. It is an example of the collective strengths of the United States, Australia, and the U.K. It exemplifies our commitment to working as allies, as partners, to positively contribute to defense security around the world, including leveraging our shared capabilities to shape a free and open Indo-Pacific and to counter the rising threat that China poses.

I recently returned from a bipartisan, bicameral codet to Australia and the Indo-Pacific, and all were eager to build on the AUKUS framework.

This legislation will strengthen the AUKUS collaboration and joint operability. It clarifies that re-exports and retransfers within the geographic territory of the United States, the U.K., and Australia are permitted under the previously exempted defense trade provisions.

Importantly, it also preserves Congress' oversight authority and continues to ensure the protection of the most sensitive technologies that underpin our security.

I am grateful to have worked with Representative KIM on this bipartisan effort to support our allies and bolster our shared defense.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, as well.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

I applaud the sponsor and cosponsors of the bill for their work on this legislation. We should be working more closely together with allies who share our values. That is the central idea behind the AUKUS agreement and the driving principle of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, the AUKUS partnership is foundational to our global defense strategy. We must ensure it is implemented as it was intended.

I am proud to support this legislation to improve existing AUKUS law, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4233.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UYGHUR POLICY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2635) to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2635

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Uyghur Policy Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to repress the distinct Islamic, Turkic identity of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwestern China and other areas of their habitual residence.

(2) Uyghurs, and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities historically making up the majority of the XUAR population, have maintained throughout their history a distinct religious and cultural identity.

(3) Human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and respect for the Uyghurs' unique Muslim identity are legitimate interests of the international community.

(4) The PRC has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and is thereby bound by its provisions. The PRC has also signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(5) An official campaign to encourage Han Chinese migration into the XUAR has placed immense pressure on those who seek to preserve the ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of the Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups.

(6) PRC authorities have supported an influx of Han Chinese economic immigrants into the XUAR, implemented discrimination against Uyghurs and other minorities in hiring practices, and provided unequal access to healthcare services.

(7) PRC authorities have manipulated the strategic objectives of the international war

on terror to mask their increasing cultural and religious oppression of the Muslim population residing in the XUAR.

(8) Following unrest in the region, in 2014, Chinese authorities launched their "Strike Hard against Violent Extremism" campaign, in which dubious allegations of widespread extremist activity were used as justification for gross human rights violations committed against Uyghurs and members of other minority communities in the XUAR.

(9) PRC authorities have made use of the legal system as a tool of repression, including for the imposition of arbitrary detentions and for torture against members of the Uyghur community and other minority populations.

(10) Uyghurs and Kazakhs who have secured citizenship or permanent residency outside of the PRC have attested to repeated threats, harassment, and surveillance by PRC officials.

(11) Reporting from international news organizations has found that over the past decade, family members of Uyghurs and other minority groups living outside of the PRC have gone missing or been detained to force Uyghur expatriates to return to the PRC or silence their dissent.

(12) In 2017, Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service was the first media organization to report on the PRC's vast, mass arbitrary-detention program in the XUAR in 2017.

(13) Credible evidence from human rights organizations, think tanks, and journalists confirms that more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs and members of other ethnic minority groups have been imprisoned in extrajudicial "political reeducation" centers.

(14) Independent accounts from former detainees of "political reeducation" centers describe inhumane conditions and treatment including forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced sterilization, and food deprivation.

(15) Former detainees also confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty to the PRC Government.

(16) Popular discourse surrounding the ongoing atrocities in the XUAR and advocacy efforts to assist Uyghurs remains muted in most Muslim majority nations around the world.

(17) Former Secretary of States Antony Blinken and Michael Pompeo and Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed that the PRC Government has committed genocide and crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities in the XUAR.

(18) Government bodies of multiple nations have also declared that PRC Government's atrocities against such populations in the XUAR constitute genocide, including the parliaments of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Czechia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Canada.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately open the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) to regular, transparent, and unmanipulated visits by members of the press, international organizations including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, academic and human rights research institutions, as well as foreign delegations including from the United States Congress;

(2) the Government of the People's Republic of China should recognize, and take tangible steps to protect and preserve, the distinct ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity of Uyghurs and members of

other ethnic and religious minority groups in the XUAR;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease all government-sponsored crackdowns, imprisonments, and detentions of people throughout the XUAR aimed at repressing their ethnic, cultural, political, or religious identities;

(4) the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease all government-sponsored transnational repression of Uyghurs, including the detainment, harassment, intimidation, and surveillance of the family members of exiled Uyghurs and Uyghur activists;

(5) it is commendable for countries to provide shelter and hospitality to Uyghurs and other minority group members in exile, as Turkey, Albania, and Germany have done;

(6) urges all countries, especially fellow democracies and those with sizeable Muslim populations, to condemn and address the plight of Uyghurs and other minority communities in the XUAR;

(7) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners that have been detained for their ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identities, for expressing their political or religious beliefs in the XUAR, or for being related to members of the Uyghur diaspora or activist community including—

(A) Ekper Asat, who participated in the Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program in 2016, was incarcerated after returning to the XUAR, and is now serving a 15 year prison sentence on charges of "inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination";

(B) Dr. Gulshan Abbas, a retired medical doctor and Uyghur, who was wrongfully detained in the XUAR on September 11, 2018, and unjustly sentenced to 20 years in prison in retaliation for her sister's advocacy for Uyghur human rights issues; and

(C) Kamile Wayit, a university student and Uyghur, who was wrongfully detained on December 12, 2022, after returning to the XUAR while on break from studying during the winter holiday;

(8) the Government of the People's Republic of China should facilitate access for international humanitarian organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to the "political reeducation" centers in the XUAR to ensure prisoners are not being mistreated and are receiving necessary medical care; and

(9) the Department of State should continue to facilitate the unhindered dissemination of information to the international community on issues regarding the human rights, religious freedom, and transnational repression of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups in the XUAR.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES STRENGTHENING OF COORDINATION ON UYGHUR ISSUES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall—

(1) prioritize policies, programs, and projects to support the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in the XUAR;

(2) vigorously promote the policy of seeking to protect the distinct ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic identity of the Uyghurs and other minority groups and seek improved protection of human rights in the XUAR;

(3) direct the State Department to maintain close contact with Uyghur religious, cultural, and political leaders, including seeking regular travel to the XUAR and to Uyghur populations in Central Asia, Turkey, Albania, Germany, and other parts of Europe;

(4) lead coordination efforts for the release of political prisoners in the XUAR who are being detained for exercising their human rights or being relatives of exiled Uyghurs;

(5) consult with the United States Congress on policies relevant to the XUAR and the Uyghurs;

(6) coordinate with relevant Federal agencies to administer aid to Uyghur rights advocates;

(7) make efforts to establish contacts with foreign ministries of other countries, especially in Europe, Central Asia, and members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, to pursue a policy of promoting greater respect for human rights and religious freedom for Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups from the XUAR;

(8) utilize the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and United States Strategic Dialogue to address Uyghur rights, working with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation individual member states to develop and implement joint initiatives and programs aimed at promoting awareness of Uyghur rights, and support Uyghur victims of detainment, harassment, and transnational repression;

(9) support independent media authorized under PL 111/202 22 U.S.C. 6208 of the 111th Congress that conduct reporting and investigative journalism focused on the XUAR, including in local languages, to ensure that further PRC human rights abuses are reported on;

(10) work with international partners to raise awareness concerning acts of transnational repression against Uyghur Americans or Uyghurs exiled in the United States;

(11) develop and implement strategies to prevent and respond to the transnational repression of Uyghur Americans and Uyghurs exiled in the United States;

(12) establish a reporting mechanism for individuals to report incidents of transnational repression; and

(13) submit an annual report, including a classified annex if necessary, to Congress on actions taken by the United States to address and prevent transnational repression against Uyghurs in the United States, and recommendations for further legislative or policy measures.

(b) SUPPORT.—The Secretary of State shall ensure the Department of State has adequate resources, staff, and administrative support to carry out this section.

(c) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES TO CONDUCT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD ON THE UYGHUR SITUATION.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the United States Speaker Program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027 is authorized to be made available to support human rights advocates working on behalf of the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups from the XUAR that are persecuted in the PRC, whose names may be provided by the Department of State in consultation with representatives of the global Uyghur community, to speak at global public diplomacy forums, particularly those in which Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries and other Muslim-majority countries are present, on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups persecuted in the PRC.

SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such re-

quirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

SEC. 7. ACCESS TO DETENTION FACILITIES AND PRISONS AND THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

(a) STRATEGY ON POLITICAL REEDUCATION AND DETENTION FACILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, develop a strategy to cooperate with like-minded partners to pressure the People's Republic of China to—

(1) close all detention facilities and "political reeducation" camps housing Uyghurs and members of other ethnic minority groups in the XUAR;

(2) allow unhindered access to detention facilities and "political reeducation" camps in the XUAR by independent media, researchers, international organizations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation; and

(3) protect human rights and preserve the distinct religious and cultural identity of the Uyghurs and the other religious and ethnic minority communities in the XUAR.

(b) REPORT ON STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report, including a classified annex if necessary, that includes—

(1) the strategy developed pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) all the steps taken to implement such strategy pursuant to the objectives described in subsection (a).

SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT FOR UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING.

(a) UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING AND STAFFING.—The Secretary of State shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) Uyghur language training is available to Foreign Service officers as appropriate; and

(2) every effort is made to ensure that at least 1 Uyghur-speaking member of the Foreign Service (as such term is defined by section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903)) is assigned to each United States diplomatic or consular post in China.

(b) REPORT.—No later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Foreign Service Institute shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that outlines all the steps taken to implement subsection (a).

SEC. 9. UYGHUR CONSIDERATIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

The President should direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to—

(1) oppose any efforts to prevent consideration of the gross violation of internationally recognized human rights in the XUAR in any body of the United Nations;

(2) oppose any efforts to prevent the participation of any Uyghur human rights advocates in nongovernmental fora hosted by or otherwise organized under the auspices of any body of the United Nations; and

(3) support the appointment of a special rapporteur or working group for the XUAR for the purposes of monitoring human rights violations and abuses in the XUAR, and for making reports available to the High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights

Commission, the General Assembly, and other United Nations bodies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of Representative YOUNG KIM's Uyghur Policy Act of 2025.

The Chinese Communist Party continues to commit genocide against the Uyghur people in Xinjiang. Over 1 million Uyghurs are held in mass detention camps, where they face torture, forced labor, constant surveillance, and forced sterilization. This is not just about abuse. It is a systematic campaign of genocide.

The Uyghur Policy Act of 2025 pushes back. It directs the Secretary of State to prioritize support for the Uyghurs and other persecuted groups and to work with allies to pressure China to close these camps.

It also urges U.S. leadership at the United Nations to ensure China's human rights abuses are not ignored or silenced.

America must lead with moral clarity. We must stand for human rights and against genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2635 to support the human rights of Uyghurs, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am a proud supporter of Representative KIM's Uyghur Policy Act of 2025. The House Foreign Affairs Committee has played an important leadership role in pushing for the protection of Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang in the face of genocide and forced labor, as my colleague mentioned.

In the last few years, the Congress and the House Foreign Affairs Committee have prioritized this issue, including marking up and enacting the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, thanks in large part to Representative JIM MCGOVERN and Speaker Emerita PELOSI's leadership, but our work is far from done because Beijing's oppression continues.

The legislation before us today is a strong, bipartisan bill. I hope it sends a clear signal to the Trump administration about Congress' intent. So far, the

administration has cut congressionally authorized programs that support human rights in China, including initiatives empowering Chinese and Uyghur-related diaspora groups to combat transnational repression and defend religious freedom.

Despite the fact that Radio Free Asia helped break the story about China's program of detention, reeducation, and forced labor, this administration is trying to close Radio Free Asia as we speak. It has shut down the only independent Uyghur language service in the entire world.

I thank Representative KIM and Representative BERA for their leadership on this bill and hope this administration reverses course. These cuts aid the CCP, not the victims of their abuse or the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BAUMGARTNER, for yielding and for managing the floor today.

I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 2635, the Uyghur Policy Act of 2025.

The Uyghur Policy Act of 2025 comes at a very important time. The Chinese Communist Party continues to deny its genocide against the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. We know that forced sterilization, forced labor, brainwashing, and torture are rampant in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Despite exposure of the CCP's crimes, Xi Jinping is doubling down. A civil society investigation uncovered that the CCP's harassment and forced transfer of Uyghur workers is more pervasive than previously thought, with individuals relocated over 2,000 miles away from the Uyghur region.

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Meanwhile, Uyghur human rights advocates and family members of detainees are intimidated and harassed by the CCP's transnational repression and espionage campaigns abroad. The fact that this happens here on U.S. soil is unacceptable and threatens our homeland.

The Uyghur Policy Act directs the Secretary of State to lead all United States Government policies and programs that support Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. It counteracts transnational repression against the Uyghur diaspora and creates reporting mechanisms for Uyghur victims.

It also works to expose and disrupt Beijing's state-sponsored forced labor programs that exploit Uyghurs in order to dominate vital industries. This includes the cotton industry, where more

than 20 percent of the world's cotton is a product of Uyghur forced labor. We need to make sure that our economy is not subsidized by the CCP's human rights abuses.

The United States must show through words and through actions that we will have Uyghurs' backs in their fight against the CCP's tyranny. We must leverage U.S. soft power, garner international support for Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, and equip the State Department with the tools that it needs to effectively fight against Xi Jinping's genocidal campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative AMI BERA, for leading this bipartisan legislation with me, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to champion the protection of Uyghurs as a Member of Congress. Yet, let me point out someone who is also a fierce champion of the Uyghurs, perhaps their strongest supporter across the Capitol, and that is our current Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Then-Senator Rubio gave an important speech in the Senate to get the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act over the finish line just a few years ago in 2021. Yet, now, as Secretary, he has overseen drastic cuts to religious freedom and human rights programming that helps the Uyghurs.

I hope that this bill augurs a return to Senator Rubio, rather than what is a disheartening and nonstrategic policy that we have seen from the State Department today.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do so, as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the Uyghur Policy Act of 2025 to increase awareness and advocacy for Uyghurs. We cannot be silent in the face of genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2635.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.