

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To state the policy of the United States with respect to religious freedom
in the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mrs. MOODY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr.
YOUNG, and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read
twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To state the policy of the United States with respect to
religious freedom 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 “Combating the Perse-
5 cution of Religious Groups in China Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) HOLDING OFFICIALS OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUB-
8 LIC OF CHINA RESPONSIBLE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
9 ABUSES.—It is the policy of the United States to consider

1 that any official of the Government of the People’s Repub-
2 lic of China who is responsible for or has directly carried
3 out abuses of religious freedom, including those involving
4 arbitrary detention, forced sterilization, torture, forced
5 labor, and serious restrictions on freedom of religion or
6 belief, expression, and movement against religious minori-
7 ties, including Protestant Christians, Catholics, Bud-
8 dhists, Muslims, and Falun Gong practitioners, in the
9 People’s Republic of China may have committed a gross
10 violation of internationally recognized human rights for
11 purposes of imposing sanctions with respect to such offi-
12 cial under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Account-
13 ability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

14 (b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAMMING TO PRO-
15 MOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC
16 OF CHINA.—It is the policy of the United States—

17 (1) that the relevant bureaus of the Depart-
18 ment of State, including the Bureau of East Asian
19 and Pacific Affairs, should support efforts to pro-
20 mote international religious freedom in the People’s
21 Republic of China; and

22 (2) for programs of the Department of State to
23 promote religious freedom in the People’s Republic
24 of China and monitor transnational repression of re-

1 religious minority groups engaged in by the Govern-
2 ment of the People's Republic of China.

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PROMOTION OF**
4 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE PEOPLE'S RE-**
5 **PUBLIC OF CHINA.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
7 should promote religious freedom in the People's Republic
8 of China by—

9 (1) designating the People's Republic of China
10 as a country of particular concern for religious free-
11 dom under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Inter-
12 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
13 6442(b)(1)(A)(ii)) as long as the Government of the
14 People's Republic of China continues to engage in
15 particularly severe violations of religious freedom (as
16 defined in section 3 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 6402));

17 (2) strengthening diplomacy relating to reli-
18 gious freedom on behalf of Christians and other reli-
19 gious minorities facing restrictions in the People's
20 Republic of China, including through the widespread
21 engagement of international partners to combat
22 abuses of religious freedom committed by the Gov-
23 ernment of the People's Republic of China;

1 (3) raising the cases of religious and political
2 prisoners at the highest levels with officials of the
3 People's Republic of China;

4 (4) calling on the Government of the People's
5 Republic of China to unconditionally release all un-
6 justly detained religious and political prisoners and
7 ensure that detainees who have not yet been released
8 are treated humanely with—

9 (A) access to family, the legal counsel of
10 their choice, independent medical care, and
11 international monitoring mechanisms; and

12 (B) the ability to practice their faith while
13 in detention; and

14 (5) encouraging the global faith community to
15 speak in solidarity with oppressed religious groups in
16 the People's Republic of China.