

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, to safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CURTIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, to safeguard their distinct identity, 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 “Uyghur Policy Act of
5 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The People’s Republic of China (referred to
2 in this Act as the “PRC”) continues to repress the
3 distinct Islamic, Turkic identity of Uyghurs and
4 members of other ethnic and religious minority
5 groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region
6 (referred to in this Act as the “XUAR”) in north-
7 western China and other areas in which they have
8 habitually resided.

9 (2) Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim
10 ethnic minorities historically making up the majority
11 of the XUAR population have maintained a distinct
12 religious and cultural identity throughout their his-
13 tory.

14 (3) Human rights, including the freedom of re-
15 ligion or belief, and respect for the Uyghurs’ unique
16 Muslim identity are legitimate interests of the inter-
17 national community.

18 (4) The PRC—

19 (A) has ratified the International Covenant
20 on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, done
21 at New York December 16, 1966, and is there-
22 by bound by its provisions; and

23 (B) has also signed the International Cov-
24 enant on Civil and Political Rights, done at
25 New York December 19, 1966.

1 (5) An official campaign to encourage Han Chi-
2 nese migration into the XUAR has placed immense
3 pressure on Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious
4 minority groups who seek to preserve their unique
5 ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions.

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

11 (7) PRC authorities have manipulated the stra-
12 tegic objectives of the international war on terror to
13 mask their increasing cultural and religious oppres-
14 sion of the Muslim population residing in the
15 XUAR.

16 (8) In 2014, following unrest in the XUAR,
17 Chinese authorities launched the “Strike Hard
18 Against Violent Extremism” campaign, in which du-
19 bious allegations of widespread extremist activity
20 were used as justification for gross human rights
21 violations committed against Uyghurs and members
22 of other minority communities in the XUAR.

23 (9) PRC authorities have made use of the legal
24 system as a tool of repression, including for the im-
25 position of arbitrary detentions and torture against

1 members of the Uyghur community and other mi-
2 nority populations.

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

7 (11) Reporting from international news organi-
8 zations has found that during the past decade, fam-
9 ily members of Uyghurs and other minority groups
10 living outside of the PRC have gone missing or been
11 detained to force Uyghur expatriates to return to
12 the PRC or silence their dissent.

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

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

22 (14) Independent accounts from former detain-
23 ees of "political reeducation" centers describe inhu-
24 mane conditions and treatment including forced po-

1 litical indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced
2 sterilization, and food deprivation.

3 (15) Former detainees also confirmed that they
4 were told by guards that the only way to secure re-
5 lease was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty
6 to the Government of the PRC.

7 (16) Popular discourse surrounding the ongoing
8 atrocities in the XUAR and advocacy efforts to as-
9 sist Uyghurs remains muted in most Muslim major-
10 ity nations around the world.

11 (17) Former Secretaries of State Antony
12 Blinken and Michael Pompeo and Secretary of State
13 Marco Rubio have all confirmed that the Govern-
14 ment of the PRC has committed genocide and
15 crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other
16 ethnic and religious minorities in the XUAR.

17 (18) Government bodies of multiple countries
18 have also declared that atrocities by the Government
19 of the PRC against such populations in the XUAR
20 constitute genocide, including the Parliament of the
21 United Kingdom, of Belgium, of Czechia, of Lith-
22 uania, of the Netherlands, and of Canada.

23 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the Government of the PRC should imme-
2 diately open the XUAR to regular, transparent, and
3 unmanipulated visits by—

4 (A) members of the press;

5 (B) international organizations, including
6 the Office of the United Nations High Commis-
7 sioner for Human Rights;

8 (C) academic and human rights research
9 institutions, and

10 (D) foreign delegations, including delega-
11 tions from the Congress of the United States;

12 (2) the Government of the PRC should—

13 (A) recognize, and take tangible steps to
14 protect and preserve, the distinct ethnic, cul-
15 tural, religious, and linguistic identity of
16 Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and reli-
17 gious minority groups in the XUAR;

18 (B) cease all government-sponsored crack-
19 downs, imprisonments, and detentions of people
20 throughout the XUAR aimed at repressing
21 their ethnic, cultural, political, or religious iden-
22 tities; and

23 (C) cease all government-sponsored
24 transnational repression of Uyghurs, including
25 the detainment, harassment, intimidation, and

1 surveillance of the family members of exiled
2 Uyghurs and Uyghur activists;

3 (3) it is commendable that countries, including
4 Turkey, Albania, and Germany, have provided shel-
5 ter and hospitality to Uyghurs and other minority
6 group members in exile from the PRC;

7 (4) urges all countries, especially fellow democ-
8 racies and countries with sizeable Muslim popu-
9 lations, to condemn and address the plight of
10 Uyghurs and other minority communities in the
11 XUAR;

12 (5) the Government of the PRC should imme-
13 diately grant unconditional releases to all prisoners
14 that have been detained for their ethnic, cultural, re-
15 ligious, and linguistic identities, for expressing their
16 political or religious beliefs in the XUAR, or for
17 being related to members of the Uyghur diaspora or
18 activist community, including—

19 (A) Ekper Asat, who participated in the
20 Department of State's International Visitors
21 Leadership Program in 2016, was incarcerated
22 after returning to the XUAR, and is now serv-
23 ing a 15-year prison sentence on charges of "in-
24 citing ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination";

1 (B) Dr. Gulshan Abbas, a Uyghur retired
2 medical doctor who was wrongfully detained in
3 the XUAR on September 11, 2018, and un-
4 justly sentenced to 20 years in prison in retalia-
5 tion for her sister's advocacy for Uyghur
6 human rights issues; and

7 (C) Kamile Wayit, a Uyghur university
8 student who was wrongfully detained on De-
9 cember 12, 2022, after returning to the XUAR
10 during the winter holiday while on break from
11 studying;

12 (6) the Government of the PRC should facili-
13 tate access for international humanitarian organiza-
14 tions, including the International Federation of Red
15 Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to the "political
16 reeducation" centers in the XUAR to ensure pris-
17 oners are not being mistreated and are receiving
18 necessary medical care; and

19 (7) the Department of State should continue to
20 facilitate the unhindered dissemination to the inter-
21 national community of information regarding the
22 human rights, religious freedom, and transnational
23 repression of Uyghurs and members of other minor-
24 ity groups in the XUAR.

1 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES STRENGTHENING OF COORDINA-**
2 **TION ON UYGHUR ISSUES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, as appro-
4 priate, shall—

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

8 (2) vigorously promote the policies of—

9 (A) protecting the distinct ethnic, religious,
10 cultural, and linguistic identities of the Uyghurs
11 and other minority groups; and

12 (B) improving the protection of human
13 rights in the XUAR;

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

20 (4) lead coordination efforts for the release of
21 political prisoners in the XUAR who are being de-
22 tained for exercising their human rights or being rel-
23 atives of exiled Uyghurs;

24 (5) consult with Congress regarding policies rel-
25 evant to the XUAR and the Uyghurs;

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

3 (7) strive to establish contacts with foreign
4 ministries of other countries, especially in Europe,
5 Central Asia, and members of the Organisation of
6 Islamic Cooperation, to pursue a policy of promoting
7 greater respect for human rights and religious free-
8 dom for Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious mi-
9 nority groups in the XUAR;

10 (8) utilize Strategic Dialogue with the
11 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to address
12 Uyghur rights and work with its individual member
13 states to develop and implement joint initiatives and
14 programs aimed at promoting awareness of Uyghur
15 rights and supporting Uyghur victims of detainment,
16 harassment, and transnational repression;

17 (9) support independent media authorized
18 under section 309 of the United States International
19 Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208), includ-
20 ing Radio Free Asia, which conduct reporting and
21 investigative journalism focused on the XUAR, in-
22 cluding in local languages, to ensure the reporting of
23 future PRC human rights abuses;

24 (10) work with international partners to raise
25 awareness concerning acts of transnational repres-

1 sion against Uyghur Americans or Uyghurs who are
2 living in exile in the United States and develop and
3 implement strategies to prevent and respond to such
4 transnational repression;

5 (11) establish a reporting mechanism for indi-
6 viduals to report incidents of transnational repres-
7 sion against Uyghurs and other minority groups
8 with ties to the XUAR; and

9 (12) submit to Congress an annual report, in-
10 cluding a classified annex, if necessary, that—

11 (A) describes actions taken by the United
12 States to address and prevent transnational re-
13 pression against Uyghurs in the United States;
14 and

15 (B) includes recommendations for further
16 legislative or policy measures in support of the
17 human rights of Uyghurs and other minority
18 groups from the XUAR.

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

22 (c) SUNSET.—The requirements under this section
23 shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on the
24 date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of
25 this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES TO CON-**
2 **DUCT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE ISLAMIC**
3 **WORLD ON THE UYGHUR SITUATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated for
5 the Office of the United States Speaker Program of the
6 Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Depart-
7 ment of State for each of the fiscal years 2025, 2026, and
8 2027, \$250,000 shall be made available to support human
9 rights advocates working on behalf of the Uyghurs and
10 members of other ethnic and religious minority groups
11 from the XUAR that are being persecuted in the PRC.

12 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF SPEAKERS.—The Assistant
13 Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs,
14 in consultation with representatives of the global Uyghur
15 community, shall identify human rights advocates who
16 may be invited to speak at global public diplomacy forums,
17 particularly events at which representatives from
18 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries and other
19 Muslim-majority countries are present, regarding issues
20 regarding the human rights and religious freedom of
21 Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minor-
22 ity groups who have been persecuted by the PRC.

23 **SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

24 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
25 requirements under this Act. Such requirements shall be

1 carried out using amounts otherwise authorized for similar
2 purposes.

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

5 (a) STRATEGY ON POLITICAL REEDUCATION AND
6 DETENTION FACILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
8 State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant
9 Federal departments and agencies, shall develop a strat-
10 egy for cooperating with like-minded partners to pressure
11 the Government of the PRC—

12 (1) to close all detention facilities and “political
13 reeducation” camps housing Uyghurs and members
14 of other ethnic minority groups in the XUAR;

15 (2) to allow unhindered access to detention fa-
16 cilities and “political reeducation” camps in the
17 XUAR by independent media, researchers, inter-
18 national organizations and the Office of the United
19 Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for
20 a comprehensive assessment of the human rights sit-
21 uation; and

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

1 (b) REPORT ON STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
3 this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Com-
4 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Com-
5 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
6 a report, including a classified annex, if necessary, that
7 includes—

8 (1) the strategy developed pursuant to sub-
9 section (a); and

10 (2) all of the steps that have been taken to im-
11 plement such strategy in accordance with the objec-
12 tives described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of sub-
13 section (a).

14 **SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT FOR UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING.**

15 (a) UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING AND STAFFING.—

16 The Secretary of State shall take such steps as may be
17 necessary to ensure that—

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

20 (2) efforts are made to ensure that at least 1
21 Uyghur-speaking member of the Service (as defined
22 in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980
23 (22 U.S.C. 3903)) is assigned to each United States
24 diplomatic or consular post in China.

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

8 **SEC. 9. UYGHUR CONSIDERATIONS AT THE UNITED NA-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 The President should direct the United States Per-
11 manent Representative to the United Nations to use the
12 voice, vote, and influence of the United States—

13 (1) to oppose any efforts to prevent consider-
14 ation of the gross violation of internationally recog-
15 nized human rights in the XUAR in any body of the
16 United Nations;

17 (2) to oppose any efforts to prevent the partici-
18 pation of any Uyghur human rights advocates in
19 nongovernmental fora hosted by, or otherwise orga-
20 nized under the auspices of, any body of the United
21 Nations; and

22 (3) to support the appointment of a special
23 rapporteur or working group for the XUAR for the
24 purposes of—

- 1 (A) monitoring human rights violations
2 and abuses in the XUAR; and
- 3 (B) making reports containing information
4 about such violations and abuses available to
5 the United Nations High Commissioner for
6 Refugees, the United Nations Commission on
7 Human Rights, the General Assembly of the
8 United Nations, and other United Nations sub-
9 sidiaries.