

HR 4780

Global Online Freedom Act of 2006

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Feb 16, 2006

Current Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .

Latest Action: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote . (Jun 22, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/4780>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • State: NJ • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lantos, Tom [D-CA-12]	D · CA		Feb 16, 2006
Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Feb 16, 2006
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		Feb 16, 2006
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-17]	D · OH		Feb 16, 2006
Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]	R · VA		Feb 16, 2006
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Mar 2, 2006
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Mar 7, 2006
Rep. Harris, Katherine [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Mar 7, 2006
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Mar 7, 2006
Rep. Tancredo, Thomas G. [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Mar 7, 2006
Rep. Davis, Jo Ann [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Mar 8, 2006
Rep. McNulty, Michael R. [D-NY-21]	D · NY		Mar 8, 2006
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Mar 9, 2006
Rep. Gerlach, Jim [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Mar 13, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 17, 2006
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	Jun 22, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Feb 16, 2006)

Global Online Freedom Act of 2006 - States that it is the policy of the United States to: (1) promote the ability of all to access and contribute information, ideas, and knowledge via the Internet; (2) use all instruments of U.S. influence, including diplomacy, trade policy, and export controls, to support, promote, and strengthen the free flow of information; and (3) prohibit any U.S. business from cooperating with officials of Internet-restricting countries in effecting potential censorship of online content.

Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the President should commence international negotiations to obtain the agreement of other countries to enact legislation similar to this Act and to pursue the development of international agreements protecting Internet freedom; and (2) some U.S. businesses, in assisting or empowering an authoritarian foreign government to restrict online access to websites such as the Voice of America and other broadcasts and information, are working contrary to U.S. foreign policy interests and undercutting efforts to promote freedom of information for all people.

Amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require, in reports relating to foreign economic and security assistance, assessments of the freedom of electronic information in each foreign country.

Establishes in the Department of State the Office of Global Internet Freedom to take specified actions to strengthen global freedom of electronic information.

Directs the President to designate Internet-restricting countries.

Provides minimum standards for U.S. businesses with respect to the protection of online freedom in foreign countries.

Authorizes the establishment of export controls against Internet-restricting foreign countries.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 22, 2006:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 22, 2006:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Jun 21, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations.
- **Mar 17, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection.
- **Feb 28, 2006:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E205-206)
- **Feb 16, 2006:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 16, 2006:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 16, 2006:** Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Feb 16, 2006:** Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Feb 16, 2006:** Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.