

HR 2271

Global Online Freedom Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 6, 2009

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection. (May 7, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/2271>

Sponsor

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

Party: Republican • State: NJ • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		May 6, 2009
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		May 6, 2009
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		May 6, 2009
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-27]	D · CA		May 6, 2009
Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]	R · VA		May 6, 2009
Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Jun 19, 2009
Rep. Wu, David [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jul 10, 2009
Rep. Inglis, Bob [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Jan 29, 2010
Rep. Latham, Tom [R-IA-4]	R · IA		Feb 24, 2010
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Apr 20, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	May 7, 2009
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	May 6, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Global Online Freedom Act of 2009 - Makes it U.S. policy to: (1) promote the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media; (2) use all appropriate instruments of U.S. influence to support the free flow of information without interference or discrimination; and (3) deter U.S. businesses from cooperating with Internet-restricting countries in effecting online censorship.

Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the President should seek international agreements to protect Internet freedom; and (2) some U.S. businesses, in assisting foreign governments to restrict online access to U.S.-supported websites and government reports and to identify individual Internet users, are working contrary to U.S. foreign policy interests.

Amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require assessments of electronic information freedom in each foreign country.

Establishes in the Department of State the Office of Global Internet Freedom (OGIF).

Directs the Secretary of State to annually designate Internet-restricting countries. Prohibits, subject to waiver, U.S. businesses that provide to the public a commercial Internet search engine, communications services, or hosting services from locating, in such countries, any personally identifiable information used to establish or maintain an Internet services account.

Requires U.S. businesses that collect or obtain personally identifiable information through the Internet to notify the OGIF and the Attorney General before responding to a disclosure request from an Internet-restricting country. Authorizes the Attorney General to prohibit a business from complying with the request, except for legitimate foreign law enforcement purposes.

Requires U.S. businesses to report to the OGIF certain Internet censorship information involving Internet-restricting countries.

Prohibits U.S. businesses that maintain Internet content hosting services from jamming U.S.-supported websites or U.S.-supported content in Internet-restricting countries.

Authorizes the President to waive provisions of this Act: (1) to further the purposes of this Act; (2) if a country ceases restrictive activity; or (3) if it is the national interest of the United States.

Actions Timeline

- **May 7, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection.
- **May 6, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **May 6, 2009:** Referred to House Foreign Affairs
- **May 6, 2009:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.
- **May 6, 2009:** Referred to House Energy and Commerce