

HR 301

To provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jan 15, 2013

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Sep 19, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/301>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]

Party: Republican • **State:** VA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (72 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]	R · VA		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Holt, Rush [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Jan 15, 2013
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Jan 22, 2013
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jan 22, 2013
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jan 22, 2013
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jan 22, 2013
Rep. Roskam, Peter J. [R-IL-6]	R · IL		Jan 22, 2013
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jan 22, 2013
Rep. Gowdy, Trey [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Jan 25, 2013
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jan 25, 2013
Rep. Bachmann, Michele [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Ellmers, Renee L. [R-NC-2]	R · NC		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Huelskamp, Tim [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Huizenga, Bill [R-MI-2]	R · MI		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Rogers, Mike D. [R-AL-3]	R · AL		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Walberg, Tim [R-MI-7]	R · MI		Feb 5, 2013
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Feb 12, 2013
Rep. Bridenstine, Jim [R-OK-1]	R · OK		Feb 13, 2013
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Feb 13, 2013
Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]	R · WI		Feb 14, 2013
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Feb 26, 2013
Rep. Levin, Sander M. [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Feb 26, 2013
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Feb 26, 2013
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Feb 26, 2013
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Feb 26, 2013
Rep. Stockman, Steve [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Feb 26, 2013
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Feb 28, 2013
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		Mar 4, 2013
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Apr 11, 2013
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Apr 12, 2013
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Apr 12, 2013
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Apr 23, 2013

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Griffin, Tim [R-AR-2]	R · AR		Apr 25, 2013
Rep. Lankford, James [R-OK-5]	R · OK		May 7, 2013
Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large]	R · ND		May 14, 2013
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		May 16, 2013
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		May 22, 2013
Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Jun 3, 2013
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Jun 25, 2013
Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]	R · FL		Jul 16, 2013
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Jul 16, 2013
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Jul 16, 2013
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Jul 24, 2013
Rep. Andrews, Robert E. [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Jul 25, 2013
Rep. Bachus, Spencer [R-AL-6]	R · AL		Jul 25, 2013
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jul 25, 2013
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Jul 25, 2013
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]	R · MO		Jul 26, 2013
Rep. Whitfield, Ed [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Jul 26, 2013
Rep. Cotton, Tom [R-AR-4]	R · AR		Jul 30, 2013
Rep. Gardner, Cory [R-CO-4]	R · CO		Aug 1, 2013
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Aug 1, 2013
Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4]	R · KS		Aug 2, 2013
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Sep 9, 2013
Rep. Crenshaw, Ander [R-FL-4]	R · FL		Sep 9, 2013
Rep. Guthrie, Brett [R-KY-2]	R · KY		Sep 9, 2013
Rep. Negrete McLeod, Gloria [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Sep 9, 2013
Rep. Radel, Trey [R-FL-19]	R · FL		Sep 9, 2013
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Sep 9, 2013
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Sep 16, 2013
Rep. Latham, Tom [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Sep 17, 2013
Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [D-WV-3]	D · WV		Sep 17, 2013
Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Sep 17, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 15, 2013
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 15, 2013
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 15, 2013
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 19, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 653	Related bill	Aug 8, 2014: Became Public Law No: 113-161.

Summary (as of Sep 18, 2013)

(Sec. 2) Directs the President to appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia within the Department of State. Requires the Special Envoy to have the rank of ambassador.

(Sec. 3) Requires the Special Envoy to: (1) promote the right of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and South Central Asia, denounce the violation of such right, and recommend appropriate U.S government responses to such violations; (2) monitor and combat acts of religious intolerance and incitement targeted against such religious minorities; (3) ensure that the needs of such religious minority communities are addressed, including economic and security needs directly tied to religious-based discrimination and persecution; (4) work with foreign governments of such countries to address inherently discriminatory laws; and (5) coordinate and assist in the preparation of specified reports required by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

(Sec. 4) Authorizes the Special Envoy, subject to direction by the President and the Secretary of State, to represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to religious freedom in: (1) contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations (U.N.), the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations; and (2) multilateral conferences and meetings relevant to religious freedom.

(Sec. 5) Requires the Special Envoy to give priority to programs, projects, and activities for Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

(Sec. 6) Directs the Secretary to eliminate certain positions within the State Department as necessary to offset the costs of carrying out this Act.

(Sec. 7) Declares that this Act shall cease to be effective on October 1, 2018.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 19, 2013:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Sep 18, 2013:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5606)
- **Sep 18, 2013:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 402 - 22 (Roll no. 465).(text: CR 9/17/2013 H5564-5565)
- **Sep 18, 2013:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 402 - 22 (Roll no. 465). (text: CR 9/17/2013 H5564-5565)
- **Sep 17, 2013:** Mr. Royce moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 17, 2013:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5564-5567)
- **Sep 17, 2013:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 301.
- **Sep 17, 2013:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Mar 15, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Mar 15, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.
- **Mar 15, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa.
- **Jan 15, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 15, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E31)
- **Jan 15, 2013:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.