

## HR 1150

Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Feb 27, 2015

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 114-281.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 114-281. (Dec 16, 2016)

**Law:** 114-281 (Enacted Dec 16, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1150>

### Sponsor

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

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

**Cosponsors** (116 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Comstock, Barbara [R-VA-10]	R · VA		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Fleischmann, Charles J. "Chuck" [R-TN-3]	R · TN		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Jenkins, Lynn [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4]	R · KS		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Trott, David A. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6]	R · KY		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Barton, Joe [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12]	R · IL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Conaway, K. Michael [R-TX-11]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Fleming, John [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Flores, Bill [R-TX-17]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Holding, George [R-NC-13]	R · NC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]	R · NC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Hultgren, Randy [R-IL-14]	R · IL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-4]	R · IA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]	R · WV		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Apr 13, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Mica, John L. [R-FL-7]	R · FL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Mulvaney, Mick [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Nugent, Richard B. [R-FL-11]	R · FL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Reichert, David G. [R-WA-8]	R · WA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Ross, Dennis A. [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]	R · NC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-15]	R · IL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Stutzman, Marlin A. [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Walberg, Tim [R-MI-7]	R · MI		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Walker, Mark [R-NC-6]	R · NC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Walorski, Jackie [R-IN-2]	R · IN		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Webster, Daniel [R-FL-10]	R · FL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Williams, Roger [R-TX-25]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Woodall, Rob [R-GA-7]	R · GA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Culberson, John Abney [R-TX-7]	R · TX		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Gowdy, Trey [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2]	R · AR		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Neugebauer, Randy [R-TX-19]	R · TX		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Black, Diane [R-TN-6]	R · TN		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Marino, Tom [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Benishek, Dan [R-MI-1]	R · MI		May 5, 2015
Rep. Costello, Ryan A. [R-PA-6]	R · PA		May 5, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		May 5, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		May 5, 2015
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		May 5, 2015
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		May 5, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		May 5, 2015
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		May 5, 2015
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		May 5, 2015
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		May 21, 2015
Rep. Bridenstine, Jim [R-OK-1]	R · OK		May 21, 2015
Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]	R · WI		May 21, 2015
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		May 21, 2015
Rep. Dold, Robert J. [R-IL-10]	R · IL		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Guinta, Frank C. [R-NH-1]	R · NH		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Jul 29, 2015
Rep. Barletta, Lou [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Sep 17, 2015
Rep. Hanna, Richard L. [R-NY-22]	R · NY		Oct 28, 2015
Rep. Kinzinger, Adam [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Nov 19, 2015
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Nov 19, 2015
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Feb 1, 2016
Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Feb 1, 2016
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Feb 9, 2016
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Apr 19, 2016
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Apr 19, 2016
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Apr 20, 2016

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 27, 2015
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 15, 2015
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 7, 2016
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 27, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6482	Related bill	<b>Dec 8, 2016:</b> Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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.
114 S 2878	Related bill	<b>Apr 28, 2016:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
114 HR 2037	Related bill	<b>May 20, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

## **Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act**

(Sec. 2) This bill expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) a foreign country's practice of routinely denying visa applications for religious workers can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country, and (2) the U.S. government should seek to reverse any such policy by reviewing the bilateral relationship between such country and the United States.

### **TITLE I--DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES**

(Sec. 101) The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA) is amended to provide that in order to promote religious freedom as a U.S. foreign policy interest, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom: (1) shall coordinate international religious freedom policies across all U.S. programs and activities, and (2) is urged to participate in any interagency processes in which the promotion of international religious freedom policy can advance U.S. national security interests.

It is the sense of Congress that maintaining an adequate staffing level at the Office of International Religious Freedom is necessary for the office to carry out its work.

(Sec. 102) The deadline for submitting the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom is changed from September 1 to May 1 (or the first day thereafter on which the appropriate House of Congress is in session).

Such report shall include information about:

- severe violations of religious freedom in a country where a government does not function or does not control its territory;
- identification of prisoners in a country;
- action taken by a government to censor religious content, communications, or worship activities online;
- persecution of human rights advocates seeking to defend the rights of members of religious groups or highlight religious freedom violations, including prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter or male infant circumcision; and
- country-specific analysis of the impact of U.S. actions on religious freedom.

The executive summary of each such report shall include information about a country in which a non-state actor is designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom.

The bill expresses the sense of Congress that given that the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices no longer contain updated information on religious freedom conditions globally, it is important that the Department of State coordinates with the Commission on International Religious Freedom to fulfill IRFA's original intent.

(Sec. 103) The Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended to require the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center to conduct training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers and all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors. The State Department shall submit a plan within 180 days for undertaking such training.

Such curriculum and training materials shall be shared with the Armed Forces and other federal agencies with overseas personnel.

(Sec. 104) The commission shall make publicly available lists of persons who are imprisoned, detained, disappeared, placed under house arrest, tortured, or subject to forced renunciations of religious faith by the government of a foreign country or by a non-state actor that the commission recommends for designation as a country or entity of particular concern for religious freedom.

## TITLE II--NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

(Sec. 201) The Special Adviser to the President on International Religious Freedom is urged to assist the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom to coordinate executive branch international religious freedom policies and strategies throughout the executive branch and within any interagency policy committee of which the Ambassador at Large is a member.

## TITLE III--PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

(Sec. 301) The President: (1) concurrent with the annual review of the status of religious freedom in foreign countries required under the IFRA, shall identify any non-state actors operating in a reviewed country or surrounding region that have engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom; (2) shall designate each such non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom; (3) shall submit a report detailing the reasons for such designation; and (4) is urged to take specific actions against such non-state actors.

The bill expresses the sense of Congress that the State Department should work with Congress to create new political, financial, and diplomatic tools to address severe violations of religious freedom by non-state actors.

The President shall, with respect to each non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom, determine the specific officials or members who are responsible for such violations.

(Sec. 302) The deadline for such annual review is changed from September 1 to not later than 90 days after a review is submitted.

(Sec. 303) The President's report on action taken in response to violations of religious freedom or on designation of a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom shall include: (1) an evaluation of the impact on the advancement of U.S. interests in democracy, human rights, and security; and (2) a description of policy tools being applied in the country, including programs that target democratic stability, economic growth, and counter-terrorism.

(Sec. 304) The waiver of specified presidential actions subsequent to the designation of a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom is limited to 180 days. The bill prescribes additional presidential waiver authority after such 180-period.

The bill expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) ongoing waivers do not fulfill the purposes of the IRFA; and (2) the President, the State Department, and other executive branch officials should find ways to address existing violations through presidential actions.

(Sec. 305) The bill directs the President to publish in the Federal Register: (1) any designation of a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom, and (2) the identities of individuals responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by non-state actors.

## TITLE IV--PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Sec. 401) The bill expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the President should request sufficient appropriations to promote international religious freedom, and (2) preference for such assistance should be given to projects targeting religious freedom violations in watch list countries and in countries designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom.

#### TITLE V--DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Sec. 501) The State Department shall establish the Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom of foreign individuals who are sanctioned (through visa denials, financial sanctions, or other measures) for ordering or otherwise directing particularly severe violations of freedom religion. The State Department shall submit the initial list within 180 days and provide updates every 180 days.

#### TITLE VI--MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

(Sec. 601) The bill express the sense of Congress that U.S. institutions of higher education operating campuses outside the United States or establishing educational entities with foreign governments, particularly with or in countries that engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom, should adopt a voluntary code of operating conduct that should:

- uphold the right of freedom of religion of their employees and students;
- ensure that the religious views and peaceful practice of religion in no way affect the status of a worker's or faculty member's employment or a student's enrollment; and
- make every effort in all negotiations, contracts, or memoranda of understanding engaged in with a foreign government to protect academic freedom and the rights enshrined in the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

The bill expresses the sense of Congress that the President's annual national security strategy report should (1) promote international religious freedom as a foreign policy and national security priority; (2) be a guide for the strategies and activities of relevant federal agencies, and (3) inform the Department of Defense quadrennial defense review and the Department of State Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.



## Actions Timeline

---

- **Dec 16, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 16, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-281.
- **Dec 15, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 13, 2016:** Mr. Smith (NJ) asked unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table and agree to the Senate amendment.
- **Dec 13, 2016:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to without objection.(consideration: CR H7580-7584; text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H7580-7583)
- **Dec 13, 2016:** On motion that the House agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to without objection. (consideration: CR H7580-7584; text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H7580-7583)
- **Dec 13, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 12, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7123-7127; text as reported to Senate: CR S7123-7127)
- **Dec 10, 2016:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7127)
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Corker with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 705.
- **Dec 6, 2016:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **May 17, 2016:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **May 16, 2016:** Mr. Royce moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **May 16, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2399-2406)
- **May 16, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1150.
- **May 16, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H2399-2403)
- **May 16, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H2399-2403)
- **May 16, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 20, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 20, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Apr 15, 2015:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 15, 2015:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Unanimous Consent .
- **Mar 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Feb 27, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 27, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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.