

HRES 421

Urging the Administration to develop more effective and timely responses to famine in Africa, especially efforts to end the conflicts in South Sudan, Nigeria, and other countries that cause or exacerbate famine.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jun 28, 2017

Current Status: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1015-1016)

Latest Action: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1015-1016) (Jul 19, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/421>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jun 28, 2017
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jul 12, 2017
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jul 12, 2017
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Mar 8, 2018
Rep. Roskam, Peter J. [R-IL-6]	R · IL		Apr 24, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 6, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Calls for the U.S. government to:

- use all available leverage to achieve lasting, comprehensive cease-fires in cases of conflict in Africa;
- work with governments to facilitate disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of combatants;
- use the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to sanction individuals or entities responsible for initiating or prolonging conflict, endangering humanitarian aid workers, or preventing delivery of humanitarian aid;
- apply all available weather and crop information to more accurately predict incipient drought and to determine the likelihood of famine in conflict areas;
- collaborate with other donor nations to accelerate the provision of food, clean water, medicine, and shelter to those in need;
- expand the prepositioning of aid commodities in safe zones close to the famine region;
- provide assistance to farmers, herders, and fishermen; and
- use cash transfers to more quickly provide food aid where local markets exist and to support the functioning of local markets.

Urges governments in affected African countries to:

- establish effective cease-fires and use force thereafter only when government forces or facilities or civilians are under attack;
- identify and take actions against individuals and entities that actively threaten peace and safety;
- work with civil society to help end conflict at the grassroots level and effect reconciliation;
- take specified actions to promote the delivery of food, clean water, medicine, and shelter;
- protect humanitarian aid workers; and
- safeguard agricultural areas and farm personnel.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 19, 2017:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1015-1016)
- **Jul 6, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Jun 28, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 28, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.