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Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Apr 13, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Apr 13, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1080>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]

Party: Democratic • **State:** DE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Apr 13, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 20, 2021
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Apr 20, 2021
Sen. Sasse, Ben [R-NE]	R · NE		Jul 14, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 13, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1630	Related bill	May 18, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act

This bill designates certain residents of the Xinjiang region in China as prioritized refugees of special humanitarian concern and addresses other related issues.

This priority designation shall apply to Uyghurs and members of other predominately Turkic or Muslim ethnic groups (and the spouses, children, and parents of such individuals) who (1) reside in or fled Xinjiang and who suffered persecution on account of their religious or ethnic identity, or have a well-founded fear of such persecution; or (2) have been formally charged, detained, or convicted for certain peaceful actions related to Xinjiang. Such an individual may not be denied admission into the United States based primarily on an arrest or other adverse government action due to that individual's participation in religious, cultural, or protest activities.

The bill also waives certain immigration-related requirements for such individuals.

Furthermore, a Chinese national seeking refugee status shall be considered to have been persecuted on account of political opinion if the Chinese government revoked that individual's residency in any region of China because the individual submitted a nonfrivolous application for a U.S. immigration benefit.

Similarly, if the Chinese government revoked a Chinese national's citizenship, nationality, or residency because that individual filed for a U.S. immigration benefit, that revocation shall constitute a changed circumstance. (Among other things, a changed circumstance may allow an individual who has been rejected for asylum to apply again.)

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 13, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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