

HR 4721

UNRWA Accountability and Transparency Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jul 27, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation. (Aug 4, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4721>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Roy, Chip [R-TX-21]

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

Cosponsors (37 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Bishop, Dan [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Budd, Ted [R-NC-13]	R · NC		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Cammack, Kat [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Cawthorn, Madison [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Cloud, Michael [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8]	R · OH		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Donalds, Byron [R-FL-19]	R · FL		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Gaetz, Matt [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Gooden, Lance [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Herrell, Yvette [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Jackson, Ronny [R-TX-13]	R · TX		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Mace, Nancy [R-SC-1]	R · SC		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Mast, Brian J. [R-FL-18]	R · FL		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]	R · WV		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Moore, Barry [R-AL-2]	R · AL		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Tenney, Claudia [R-NY-22]	R · NY		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Jul 27, 2021
Rep. Cheney, Liz [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		Sep 10, 2021
Rep. Fleischmann, Charles J. "Chuck" [R-TN-3]	R · TN		Sep 10, 2021
Rep. Kustoff, David [R-TN-8]	R · TN		Sep 22, 2021
Rep. Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Oct 12, 2021
Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Oct 19, 2021
Rep. Burchett, Tim [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Oct 28, 2021
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Nov 16, 2021
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Feb 1, 2022
Rep. Tiffany, Thomas P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Feb 11, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 4, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 3467	Identical bill	Jan 18, 2022: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 247.
117 S 2479	Identical bill	Jul 27, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of Jul 27, 2021)

UNRWA Accountability and Transparency Act

This bill makes changes to U.S. foreign policy in matters concerning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

For purposes of this policy, the bill defines *Palestinian refugee* as a person who (1) resided from June 1946 to May 1948 in Mandatory Palestine (a region controlled by Britain until 1948), (2) was personally displaced as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, and (3) has not accepted citizenship or other permanent adjustment in status in another country.

The bill withholds U.S. funding for the UNRWA unless the Department of State makes certifications concerning the UNRWA's staff, partners, and funding. Specifically, the State Department must certify that neither UNRWA staff and partners nor its funding and facilities are affiliated with terrorism or engaged in the dissemination of anti-American, anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic ideologies. Additionally, the State Department must certify that the UNRWA is subject to comprehensive financial audits by an independent auditing firm and is unaffiliated with any financial institutions that the United States considers to be complicit in money laundering or terror financing.

The bill also requires the State Department to implement a plan to encourage other countries to align their activities and efforts regarding the UNRWA with U.S. policy objectives, including the phase out of the UNRWA by resettling Palestinian refugees in countries other than Israel and in territories not controlled by Israel. The State Department must report to Congress on this plan.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 4, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation.
- **Jul 27, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 27, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.