

## HR 5046

### Holding Countries Accountable for Negligent Chemical and Biological Programs Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Aug 17, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Service

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and 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. (Aug 17, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5046>

#### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Feenstra, Randy [R-IA-4]

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

#### Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

#### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 17, 2021
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 17, 2021
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 17, 2021

#### Subjects & Policy Tags

##### Policy Area:

International Affairs

#### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4792	Related bill	Sep 3, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

## **Holding Countries Accountable for Negligent Chemical and Biological Programs Act**

This bill authorizes initial, intermediate, and final sanctions against countries that act grossly negligent (i.e., knew or should have known that an act or acts would harm another foreign state) with respect to a chemical or biological weapons program.

Before imposing initial sanctions, the President must determine that a country acted with gross negligence. Following such a determination, the President must impose the initial sanctions (e.g., suspending scientific cooperative programs and restricting U.S. government contracting with entities operating in chemical or biological sectors of a sanctioned country).

Within 120 days of imposing initial sanctions, the President must determine whether the country has taken adequate steps to redress its sanctionable conduct. If the country has not taken adequate steps, the President must impose intermediate sanctions (e.g., terminating financial assistance and prohibiting arms transactions).

Within 210 days of imposing intermediate sanctions, the President must again determine whether the country has taken adequate steps to redress its sanctionable conduct. If the country has not taken adequate steps, the President must impose final sanctions (e.g., prohibiting certain transactions in foreign exchange or transfers of credit or payment).

The sanctions may be removed after 12 months if the President certifies a country adequately redressed the sanctionable conduct. The bill also authorizes waivers of the sanctions, subject to certain restrictions.

Furthermore, the President must determine and report to Congress about whether China meets the criteria for gross negligence with respect to its chemical or biological weapons program.

### **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Aug 17, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Aug 17, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and 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.