

## HR 1288

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

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Mar 1, 2023

**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 Accountability, 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. (Mar 1, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1288>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Mar 7, 2023
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Mar 7, 2023
Rep. Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Mar 27, 2023

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 1, 2023
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 1, 2023
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 1, 2023

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 7476	Related bill	Dec 17, 2024: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.

## **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.

If the President determines that a country acted with gross negligence, 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 30 days.

Within 120 days of making the determination of gross negligence, 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 most foreign aid and prohibiting arms transactions).

Within 210 days of making the determination of gross negligence, 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 12 months after the initial sanctions were imposed 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**

---

- **Mar 1, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 1, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Accountability, 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.