

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2635

To support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2025

Mrs. KIM (for herself, Mr. BERA, and Mr. MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Uyghur Policy Act of  
5 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The People’s Republic of China (PRC) con-  
2           tinues to repress the distinct Islamic, Turkic identity  
3           of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and reli-  
4           gious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Au-  
5           tonomous Region (XUAR) in northwestern China  
6           and other areas of their habitual residence.

7           (2) Uyghurs, and other predominantly Muslim  
8           ethnic minorities historically making up the majority  
9           of the XUAR population, have maintained through-  
10          out their history a distinct religious and cultural  
11          identity.

12          (3) Human rights, including freedom of religion  
13          or belief, and respect for the Uyghurs’ unique Mus-  
14          lim identity are legitimate interests of the inter-  
15          national community.

16          (4) The PRC has ratified the International  
17          Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,  
18          and is thereby bound by its provisions. The PRC has  
19          also signed the International Covenant on Civil and  
20          Political Rights.

21          (5) An official campaign to encourage Han Chi-  
22          nese migration into the XUAR has placed immense  
23          pressure on those who seek to preserve the ethnic,  
24          cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of the

1 Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority  
2 groups.

3 (6) PRC authorities have supported an influx of  
4 Han Chinese economic immigrants into the XUAR,  
5 implemented discrimination against Uyghurs and  
6 other minorities in hiring practices, and provided un-  
7 equal access to healthcare services.

8 (7) PRC authorities have manipulated the stra-  
9 tegic objectives of the international war on terror to  
10 mask their increasing cultural and religious oppres-  
11 sion of the Muslim population residing in the  
12 XUAR.

13 (8) Following unrest in the region, in 2014,  
14 Chinese authorities launched their “Strike Hard  
15 against Violent Extremism” campaign, in which du-  
16 bious allegations of widespread extremist activity  
17 were used as justification for gross human rights  
18 violations committed against Uyghurs and members  
19 of other minority communities in the XUAR.

20 (9) PRC authorities have made use of the legal  
21 system as a tool of repression, including for the im-  
22 position of arbitrary detentions and for torture  
23 against members of the Uyghur community and  
24 other minority populations.

1           (10) Uyghurs and Kazakhs who have secured  
2 citizenship or permanent residency outside of the  
3 PRC have attested to repeated threats, harassment,  
4 and surveillance by PRC officials.

5           (11) Reporting from international news organi-  
6 zations has found that over the past decade, family  
7 members of Uyghurs and other minority groups liv-  
8 ing outside of the PRC have gone missing or been  
9 detained to force Uyghur expatriates to return to  
10 the PRC or silence their dissent.

11           (12) In 2017, Radio Free Asia’s Uyghur Serv-  
12 ice was the first media organization to report on the  
13 PRC’s vast, mass arbitrary-detention program in the  
14 XUAR in 2017.

15           (13) Credible evidence from human rights orga-  
16 nizations, think tanks, and journalists confirms that  
17 more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs and members of other  
18 ethnic minority groups have been imprisoned in  
19 extrajudicial “political reeducation” centers.

20           (14) Independent accounts from former detain-  
21 ees of “political reeducation” centers describe inhu-  
22 mane conditions and treatment including forced po-  
23 litical indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced  
24 sterilization, and food deprivation.

1           (15) Former detainees also confirmed that they  
2           were told by guards that the only way to secure re-  
3           lease was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty  
4           to the PRC Government.

5           (16) Popular discourse surrounding the ongoing  
6           atrocities in the XUAR and advocacy efforts to as-  
7           sist Uyghurs remains muted in most Muslim major-  
8           ity nations around the world.

9           (17) Former Secretary of States Antony  
10          Blinken and Michael Pompeo and Secretary of State  
11          Marco Rubio confirmed that the PRC Government  
12          has committed genocide and crimes against human-  
13          ity against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious  
14          minorities in the XUAR.

15          (18) Government bodies of multiple nations  
16          have also declared that PRC Government’s atrocities  
17          against such populations in the XUAR constitute  
18          genocide, including the parliaments of the United  
19          Kingdom, Belgium, Czechia, Lithuania, the Nether-  
20          lands, and Canada.

21 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22          It is the Sense of Congress that—

23                 (1) the Government of the People’s Republic of  
24                 China should immediately open the Xinjiang Uyghur  
25                 Autonomous Region (XUAR) to regular, trans-

1 parent, and unmanipulated visits by members of the  
2 press, international organizations including the Of-  
3 fice of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
4 Human Rights, academic and human rights research  
5 institutions, as well as foreign delegations including  
6 from the United States Congress;

7 (2) the Government of the People’s Republic of  
8 China should recognize, and take tangible steps to  
9 protect and preserve, the distinct ethnic, cultural, re-  
10 ligious, and linguistic identity of Uyghurs and mem-  
11 bers of other ethnic and religious minority groups in  
12 the XUAR;

13 (3) the Government of the People’s Republic of  
14 China should cease all government-sponsored crack-  
15 downs, imprisonments, and detentions of people  
16 throughout the XUAR aimed at repressing their eth-  
17 nic, cultural, political, or religious identities;

18 (4) the Government of the People’s Republic of  
19 China should cease all government-sponsored  
20 transnational repression of Uyghurs, including the  
21 detainment, harassment, intimidation, and surveil-  
22 lance of the family members of exiled Uyghurs and  
23 Uyghur activists;

24 (5) it is commendable for countries to provide  
25 shelter and hospitality to Uyghurs and other minor-

1       ity group members in exile, as Turkey, Albania, and  
2       Germany have done;

3               (6) urges all countries, especially fellow democ-  
4       racies and those with sizeable Muslim populations,  
5       to condemn and address the plight of Uyghurs and  
6       other minority communities in the XUAR;

7               (7) the Government of the People’s Republic of  
8       China should immediately and unconditionally re-  
9       lease all prisoners that have been detained for their  
10      ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identities,  
11      for expressing their political or religious beliefs in  
12      the XUAR, or for being related to members of the  
13      Uyghur diaspora or activist community including—

14              (A) Ekper Asat, who participated in the  
15      Department of State’s International Visitors  
16      Leadership Program in 2016, was incarcerated  
17      after returning to the XUAR, and is now serv-  
18      ing a 15 year prison sentence on charges of “in-  
19      citing ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination”;

20              (B) Dr. Gulshan Abbas, a retired medical  
21      doctor and Uyghur, who was wrongfully de-  
22      tained in the XUAR on September 11, 2018,  
23      and unjustly sentenced to 20 years in prison in  
24      retaliation for her sister’s advocacy for Uyghur  
25      human rights issues; and

1 (C) Kamile Wayit, a university student  
2 and Uyghur, who was wrongfully detained on  
3 December 12, 2022, after returning to the  
4 XUAR while on break from studying during the  
5 winter holiday;

6 (8) the Government of the People’s Republic of  
7 China should facilitate access for international hu-  
8 manitarian organizations, including the Inter-  
9 national Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent  
10 Societies, to the “political reeducation” centers in  
11 the XUAR to ensure prisoners are not being mis-  
12 treated and are receiving necessary medical care;  
13 and

14 (9) the Department of State should continue to  
15 facilitate the unhindered dissemination of informa-  
16 tion to the international community on issues re-  
17 garding the human rights, religious freedom, and  
18 transnational repression of Uyghurs and members of  
19 other minority groups in the XUAR.

20 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES STRENGTHENING OF COORDINA-**  
21 **TION ON UYGHUR ISSUES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, as appro-  
23 priate, shall—

1           (1) prioritize policies, programs, and projects to  
2 support the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic  
3 and religious minority groups in the XUAR;

4           (2) vigorously promote the policy of seeking to  
5 protect the distinct ethnic, religious, cultural, and  
6 linguistic identity of the Uyghurs and other minority  
7 groups and seek improved protection of human  
8 rights in the XUAR;

9           (3) direct the State Department to maintain  
10 close contact with Uyghur religious, cultural, and  
11 political leaders, including seeking regular travel to  
12 the XUAR and to Uyghur populations in Central  
13 Asia, Turkey, Albania, Germany, and other parts of  
14 Europe;

15           (4) lead coordination efforts for the release of  
16 political prisoners in the XUAR who are being de-  
17 tained for exercising their human rights or being rel-  
18 atives of exiled Uyghurs;

19           (5) consult with the United States Congress on  
20 policies relevant to the XUAR and the Uyghurs;

21           (6) coordinate with relevant Federal agencies to  
22 administer aid to Uyghur rights advocates;

23           (7) make efforts to establish contacts with for-  
24 eign ministries of other countries, especially in Eu-  
25 rope, Central Asia, and members of the Organisation

1 of Islamic Cooperation, to pursue a policy of pro-  
2 moting greater respect for human rights and reli-  
3 gious freedom for Uyghurs and other ethnic and re-  
4 ligious minority groups from the XUAR;

5 (8) utilize the Organisation of Islamic Coopera-  
6 tion and United States Strategic Dialogue to ad-  
7 dress Uyghur rights, working with the Organisation  
8 of Islamic Cooperation individual member states to  
9 develop and implement joint initiatives and pro-  
10 grams aimed at promoting awareness of Uyghur  
11 rights, and support Uyghur victims of detainment,  
12 harassment, and transnational repression;

13 (9) support independent media authorized  
14 under PL 111/202 22 U.S.C. 6208 of the 111th  
15 Congress that conduct reporting and investigative  
16 journalism focused on the XUAR, including in local  
17 languages, to ensure that further PRC human rights  
18 abuses are reported on;

19 (10) work with international partners to raise  
20 awareness concerning acts of transnational repres-  
21 sion against Uyghur Americans or Uyghurs exiled in  
22 the United States;

23 (11) develop and implement strategies to pre-  
24 vent and respond to the transnational repression of

1 Uyghur Americans and Uyghurs exiled in the United  
2 States;

3 (12) establish a reporting mechanism for indi-  
4 viduals to report incidents of transnational repres-  
5 sion; and

6 (13) submit an annual report, including a clas-  
7 sified annex if necessary, to Congress on actions  
8 taken by the United States to address and prevent  
9 transnational repression against Uyghurs in the  
10 United States, and recommendations for further leg-  
11 islative or policy measures.

12 (b) SUPPORT.—The Secretary of State shall ensure  
13 the Department of State has adequate resources, staff,  
14 and administrative support to carry out this section.

15 (c) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on  
16 the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment  
17 of this Act.

18 **SEC. 5. FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES TO CON-**  
19 **DUCT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE ISLAMIC**  
20 **WORLD ON THE UYGHUR SITUATION.**

21 Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the  
22 United States Speaker Program of the Bureau of Edu-  
23 cational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State,  
24 \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027  
25 is authorized to be made available to support human

1 rights advocates working on behalf of the Uyghurs and  
2 members of other ethnic and religious minority groups  
3 from the XUAR that are persecuted in the PRC, whose  
4 names may be provided by the Department of State in  
5 consultation with representatives of the global Uyghur  
6 community, to speak at global public diplomacy forums,  
7 particularly those in which Organisation of Islamic Co-  
8 operation countries and other Muslim-majority countries  
9 are present, on issues regarding the human rights and reli-  
10 gious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic  
11 and religious minority groups persecuted in the PRC.

12 **SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

13 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the  
14 requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be car-  
15 ried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

16 **SEC. 7. ACCESS TO DETENTION FACILITIES AND PRISONS**  
17 **AND THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.**

18 (a) STRATEGY ON POLITICAL REEDUCATION AND  
19 DETENTION FACILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after  
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
21 State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant  
22 Federal departments and agencies, develop a strategy to  
23 cooperate with like-minded partners to pressure the Peo-  
24 ple’s Republic of China to—

1           (1) close all detention facilities and “political  
2 reeducation” camps housing Uyghurs and members  
3 of other ethnic minority groups in the XUAR;

4           (2) allow unhindered access to detention facili-  
5 ties and “political reeducation” camps in the XUAR  
6 by independent media, researchers, international or-  
7 ganizations and the Office of the United Nations  
8 High Commissioner for Human Rights for a com-  
9 prehensive assessment of the human rights situation;  
10 and

11           (3) protect human rights and preserve the dis-  
12 tinct religious and cultural identity of the Uyghurs  
13 and the other religious and ethnic minority commu-  
14 nities in the XUAR.

15       (b) REPORT ON STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION.—  
16 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of  
17 this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Com-  
18 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives  
19 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate  
20 a report, including a classified annex if necessary, that in-  
21 cludes—

22           (1) the strategy developed pursuant to sub-  
23 section (a); and

1           (2) all the steps taken to implement such strat-  
2           egy pursuant to the objectives described in sub-  
3           section (a).

4 **SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT FOR UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING.**

5           (a) UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING AND STAFFING.—

6 The Secretary of State shall take such steps as may be  
7 necessary to ensure that—

8           (1) Uyghur language training is available to  
9           Foreign Service officers as appropriate; and

10           (2) every effort is made to ensure that at least  
11           1 Uyghur-speaking member of the Foreign Service  
12           (as such term is defined by section 103 of the For-  
13           eign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903)) is as-  
14           signed to each United States diplomatic or consular  
15           post in China.

16           (b) REPORT.—No later than 1 year after the date  
17 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for  
18 2 years, the Foreign Service Institute shall submit to the  
19 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-  
20 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-  
21 ate a report that outlines all the steps taken to implement  
22 subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 9. UYGHUR CONSIDERATIONS AT THE UNITED NA-**  
2 **TIONS.**

3 The President should direct the United States Per-  
4 manent Representative to the United Nations to use the  
5 voice, vote, and influence of the United States to—

6 (1) oppose any efforts to prevent consideration  
7 of the gross violation of internationally recognized  
8 human rights in the XUAR in any body of the  
9 United Nations;

10 (2) oppose any efforts to prevent the participa-  
11 tion of any Uyghur human rights advocates in non-  
12 governmental fora hosted by or otherwise organized  
13 under the auspices of any body of the United Na-  
14 tions; and

15 (3) support the appointment of a special  
16 rapporteur or working group for the XUAR for the  
17 purposes of monitoring human rights violations and  
18 abuses in the XUAR, and for making reports avail-  
19 able to the High Commissioner for Refugees, the  
20 High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human  
21 Rights Commission, the General Assembly, and  
22 other United Nations bodies.

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