

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6877

To support and promote the human rights of Southern Mongolians in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and House Administration, 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

A BILL

To support and promote the human rights of Southern Mongolians in the People's Republic of China, 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 “Southern Mongolian
5 Human Rights Policy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) According to the China Statistical Yearbook
2 for 2021, more than 6,000,000 ethnic Mongolians
3 live in the People’s Republic of China, of which some
4 two-thirds live in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous
5 Region, and many others in three prefectures and
6 eight counties designated as autonomous for Mongo-
7 lians by the Government of the People’s Republic of
8 China.

9 (2) Over the centuries, successive central Chi-
10 nese governments have promoted the migration of
11 Chinese people into the area currently administered
12 as the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and
13 today only about 18 percent of the population of the
14 Region is counted as ethnically Mongolian.

15 (3) The Constitution and 1984 Regional Ethnic
16 Autonomy Law of the People’s Republic of China
17 guarantee numerous rights to Mongolian and other
18 designated minorities, including autonomous govern-
19 ment, protection for religions and cultures, control
20 over local economic development, and management
21 of local natural resources, and the right “to use and
22 develop their own spoken and written languages and
23 their freedom to preserve or reform their own folk-
24 ways and customs,” including to “use textbooks in

1 their own languages and use these languages as the
2 media of instruction”.

3 (4) In 2020, officials in the Inner Mongolia Au-
4 tonomous Region announced a new policy to effec-
5 tively replace Mongolian as the principal language of
6 instruction with Chinese, in the subjects of history,
7 politics, and literature, and shut down Bainu, the
8 only Mongolian-language-based social media website
9 based in the country. Beginning in September 2023,
10 schools across the region largely removed Mongolian-
11 language instruction from elementary and secondary
12 schools throughout the region. Reports indicate that
13 high school entrance exams are conducted in Chinese
14 exclusively as of 2025, and college entrance exams
15 will be conducted in Chinese exclusively by 2028.
16 The People’s Republic of China authorities have
17 banned Mongolian language books from bookstores
18 and removed signs in the unique, vertically written
19 Mongolian script from schools, buildings, streets,
20 and parks.

21 (5) The People’s Republic of China officials
22 launched “patriotic education” campaigns at schools
23 and universities throughout the Inner Mongolia Au-
24 tonomous Region, designed to suppress manifesta-
25 tions of Mongolian identity in favor of the common

1 Chinese national identity and encourage “all ethnic
2 groups to accept the great mother country, Chinese
3 nationality, Chinese culture, [and the] Chinese Com-
4 munist Party.” In response to the new education
5 policy, tens of thousands of Southern Mongolians in
6 the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region launched
7 protests, in which some 300,000 Southern Mongo-
8 lian students boycotted school and teachers went on
9 strike, and some individuals reportedly committed
10 suicide in protest. Security authorities responded
11 harshly by arresting, beating, detaining, jailing, and
12 placing under home confinement some estimated
13 8,000 to 10,000 Southern Mongolians.

14 (6) Chinese authorities now fully control all ac-
15 tivities of the Chinggis Khan Mausoleum in the
16 Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, including the
17 schedule, scale, and ticketing of ritual ceremonies
18 and approval and monitoring of gatherings, denying
19 Southern Mongolians the ability to carry out tradi-
20 tional rituals and observances free of government in-
21 terference and profiteering. This has broken an
22 eight-century-long memorial tradition at the site,
23 which has served as an historical and cultural rep-
24 resentation of the Mongolian identity.

1 (7) The People's Republic of China policies
2 have undermined the religious heritage of Southern
3 Mongolians, many of whom follow Tibetan Bud-
4 dhism, including through the destruction of mon-
5 asteries and temples during the Cultural Revolution,
6 and interference in the ability to choose their own
7 religious leaders. Restrictions on travel and freedom
8 of religion or belief inhibit the ability of Southern
9 Mongolians to affiliate, engage, and communicate
10 with Mongol communities around the world, espe-
11 cially those with cultural, linguistic and religious
12 links to people in the country of Mongolia and the
13 Buryatia, Kamykia, and Tuvan regions of the Rus-
14 sian Federation, resulting in a diminution of their
15 common cultural heritage.

16 (8) The People's Republic of China policies
17 have effectively ended the traditional Southern Mon-
18 golian economic livelihood of pastoralism, a key
19 marker of Mongol identity, by forcibly resettling
20 more than 246,000 nomadic households to urban
21 and agricultural areas where Mandarin language
22 and Chinese cultural elements dominate. These poli-
23 cies have cut off Southern Mongolians from their an-
24 cestral lands and increased their economic depend-
25 ence on the state, eroding their social cohesion. This

1 has led to severe social and psychological impacts,
2 including mental illness and economic deprivation.

3 (9) The environment of the Inner Mongolia Au-
4 tonomous Region has degraded under the People's
5 Republic of China policies that have removed no-
6 mads, ending traditional stewardship of grazing
7 lands, and exploited natural resources through min-
8 ing and heavy industry without sufficient stake-
9 holder input from local inhabitants, resulting in air
10 and water pollution and severe health problems
11 among local Southern Mongolians. Bayan Obo, the
12 largest rare earth mine in the world, which holds 70
13 percent of the world's rare earth elements reserve
14 and the largest known deposit of thorium, is the
15 source of toxic waste, including radioactive thorium
16 that has been seeping into groundwater.

17 (10) Southern Mongolian dissidents, activists,
18 writers, bloggers, lawyers, and their family members
19 who have attempted to exercise their freedom of ex-
20 pression and defend their legal rights have been de-
21 tained, arrested, imprisoned, and placed under home
22 confinement by the People's Republic of China au-
23 thorities. Activist Yanjindulam remains under home
24 confinement after being released from prison, artist
25 Ashidaa is still under home confinement, lawyer

1 Huhbulag has been detained multiple times, and dis-
2 sident Almaz has been frequently harassed and de-
3 tained by the authorities.

4 (11) Authorities detained rights activist Hada,
5 who promoted self-determination and democracy for
6 Southern Mongolians, in 1995 and sentenced him to
7 15 years in 1996. He was held without legal basis
8 for an additional four years following the expiration
9 of his sentence. Hada was subsequently placed under
10 home confinement until his disappearance in Sep-
11 tember 2020. On February 7, 2025, Hada was
12 moved to an undisclosed location from a hospital in
13 Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and
14 hospital staff refused to disclose his whereabouts
15 and health conditions to family members. In 2011,
16 Hada's wife Xinna, an outspoken critic of human
17 rights violations in Southern Mongolia, was arrested
18 before being sentenced to three years in prison, sus-
19 pended for five years. Their son Uiles was sentenced
20 at the age of 17 to two years in prison on the basis
21 of multiple fabricated charges. The family's welfare
22 and whereabouts have been unknown since Sep-
23 tember 2020.

24 (12) Chinese authorities have subjected South-
25 ern Mongolians to transnational repression. Since

1 2009, at least five Southern Mongolian dissidents in
2 exile have been forcibly returned to China, including
3 from Mongolia. On May 3, 2023, Chinese police offi-
4 cers detained Lhamjab Borjigin, a long-time dis-
5 sident writer and historian, in Ulaanbaatar, Mon-
6 golia, and forcibly returned him to China on the
7 same day. Lhamjab Borjigin had escaped from home
8 confinement on March 6, 2023, after he was sen-
9 tenced to one year in prison, suspended for two
10 years, for writing a book entitled “China’s Cultural
11 Revolution”.

12 (13) The Congressional-Executive Commission
13 on China reported that “[d]uring the Commission’s
14 2025 reporting year, Chinese Communist Party and
15 government authorities implemented policies that
16 limited the freedom of ethnic minority groups to ex-
17 press their cultural and religious identities in con-
18 travention of the PRC Regional Ethnic Autonomy
19 Law and international human rights treaties, includ-
20 ing the International Covenant on Civil and Political
21 Rights and the International Covenant on Economic,
22 Social and Cultural Rights”.

23 (14) The Government of the People’s Republic
24 of China’s policies have undermined the ability of
25 Southern Mongolians to exercise their rights under

1 the People's Republic of China's constitution and
2 law, and under international law, to safeguard and
3 develop their own language, culture, religion or be-
4 lief, and economic livelihoods, as part of a deliberate
5 effort to erase their distinct Mongolian culture and
6 Sinicize the Southern Mongolian people, which some
7 observers have called a form of cultural genocide.

8 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

9 It is the policy of the United States—

10 (1) to support and promote human rights of
11 Southern Mongolians in the People's Republic of
12 China, including the fundamental freedoms of ex-
13 pression, peaceful assembly, and religion or belief
14 and rights related to arbitrary detention, discrimina-
15 tion and other abuses;

16 (2) to support the aspirations of the Southern
17 Mongolian people to safeguard their cultural and lin-
18 guistic heritage, including the ability to use and pro-
19 mote their own spoken and written language, and
20 protect their traditional pastoralist way of life that
21 they have maintained for thousands of years; and

22 (3) to press the Government of the People's Re-
23 public of China to allow the Southern Mongolian
24 people the ability to enjoy the autonomy guaranteed

1 to them by the Constitution and 1984 Regional Eth-
2 nic Autonomy Law, including in education.

3 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the United States supports the legitimate
6 aspirations of the Southern Mongolian people to
7 safeguard their cultural and linguistic heritage and
8 practice their traditional way of life without threat
9 of forced assimilation policies of the Government of
10 the People's Republic of China and the Chinese
11 Communist Party;

12 (2) the President should—

13 (A) condemn human rights abuses against
14 Southern Mongolians by authorities of the Peo-
15 ple's Republic of China; and

16 (B) call on such authorities to allow South-
17 ern Mongolians the ability to exercise the au-
18 tonomy guaranteed under the constitution and
19 law of the People's Republic of China, including
20 to conduct their affairs and receive education in
21 their own spoken and written language;

22 (3) the Secretary of State should—

23 (A) work with United States allies and
24 partners and through multilateral institutions

1 to advocate for the human rights of Southern
2 Mongolians;

3 (B) urge the United Nations Human
4 Rights Council to prioritize assessment of the
5 human rights of Southern Mongolians in its re-
6 views of the People's Republic of China compli-
7 ance with international human rights law, in-
8 cluding through the Universal Periodic Review
9 process, and to request travel by United Na-
10 tions officials to assess conditions of Southern
11 Mongolians in the People's Republic of China;

12 (C) promote the right of Southern Mongo-
13 lians to protect their spoken and written lan-
14 guage;

15 (D) promote the freedom of religion or be-
16 lief Southern Mongolians;

17 (E) work with the United Nations Edu-
18 cational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
19 (UNESCO) to identify and protect world herit-
20 age sites in areas of traditional Mongolian cul-
21 ture in the People's Republic of China; and

22 (F) coordinate closely with the inter-
23 national community on targeted sanctions and
24 visa restrictions;

1 (4) the United States companies and individ-
2 uals operating in areas designated as autonomous
3 for Mongolians in the People's Republic of China
4 should take steps to ensure that their commercial
5 activities do not contribute to human rights viola-
6 tions, undermine the autonomous rights of Southern
7 Mongolians, or contribute to the environmental deg-
8 radation or resettlement of nomads in those areas,
9 and are consistent with the United Nations Guiding
10 Principles on Business and Human Rights; and

11 (5) the United States Ambassador to the Peo-
12 ple's Republic of China should expeditiously seek to
13 meet with Hada and his family members, as well as
14 other Southern Mongolian dissidents, activists, writ-
15 ers, and lawyers who are either in prison or under
16 detention or home confinement.

17 **SEC. 5. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

18 (a) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS.—The Ambassador at
19 Large for International Religious Freedom shall, con-
20 sistent with the duties under sections 101(c) and 102(a)
21 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
22 U.S.C. 6411(c), 6412(a)), assist the Secretary of State to
23 assess the impact of the restrictions on Tibetan Buddhism
24 by the Government of the People's Republic of China on
25 the religious freedom of—

1 (1) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the
2 People's Republic of China who are not Tibetan; and

3 (2) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism outside
4 the People's Republic of China, including their abil-
5 ity to travel to and share information with practi-
6 tioners inside the People's Republic of China.

7 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
8 FREEDOM.—The Secretary of State, with the assistance
9 of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious
10 Freedom, shall ensure that the report required under sec-
11 tions 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act
12 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(c), 6412(b)) assesses, as appro-
13 priate, the impact of the restrictions on Tibetan Buddhism
14 by the Government of the People's Republic of China on
15 the religious freedom of—

16 (1) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the
17 People's Republic of China who are not Tibetan; and

18 (2) practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism outside
19 the People's Republic of China, including their abil-
20 ity to travel to and share information with practi-
21 tioners inside the People's Republic of China.

1 **SEC. 6. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR**
2 **HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST SOUTHERN**
3 **MONGOLIANS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF**
4 **CHINA; IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

5 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
8 nually thereafter, the President shall submit to the
9 appropriate congressional committees a report that
10 identifies each foreign person, including any official
11 of the Government of the People's Republic of
12 China, that the President determines is responsible
13 for any of the following with respect to Southern
14 Mongolians in the People's Republic of China:

15 (A) Torture.

16 (B) Cruel, inhuman, or degrading treat-
17 ment or punishment.

18 (C) Prolonged or arbitrary detention with-
19 out charges and trial.

20 (D) Causing the disappearance of persons
21 by the abduction and clandestine detention of
22 those persons.

23 (E) Other flagrant denial of the right to
24 life, liberty, or the security of persons.

25 (F) Other gross violations of human rights
26 committed against Southern Mongolians.

1 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
2 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
3 include a classified annex.

4 (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President
5 should impose sanctions pursuant to one or more of the
6 following authorities with respect to each foreign person
7 identified in the report required by subsection (a):

8 (1) The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-
9 countability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

10 (2) Section 7031(c)(1)(A) of the Department of
11 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
12 Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law
13 118–47; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note).

14 (3) Section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration
15 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)).

16 (c) SUNSET.—This section, and any sanctions im-
17 posed under this section, shall terminate on the date that
18 is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
21 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees” means—

23 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
24 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
25 Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
2 the Committee on Financial Services of the
3 House of Representatives.

4 (2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
5 son” means an individual or entity that is not a
6 United States person.

7 (3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
8 “United States person” means—

9 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
10 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
11 United States;

12 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
13 the United States or of any jurisdiction within
14 the United States, including a foreign branch of
15 such an entity; or

16 (C) any person in the United States.

17 **SEC. 7. VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN THE MONGO-**
18 **LIAN LANGUAGE.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE.—Not later than
20 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for
22 Global Media shall establish, through the Voice of Amer-
23 ica, a service to provide Voice of America Mongolian lan-
24 guage programming to Mongolian language speakers in

1 Mongolia, the People’s Republic of China, and the Russian
2 Federation.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer
5 of the United States Agency for Global Media shall submit
6 to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and
7 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives a report detailing the implementation of this
9 section, including a description of programming and
10 broadcast hours.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to the Voice of America for
13 purposes of carrying out this section \$2,000,000 for each
14 of fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

15 **SEC. 8. SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN MONGOLIAN CULTURE.**

16 (a) REPRESSED CULTURES PRESERVATION.—

17 (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
18 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
19 fund activities to help preserve cultures endangered
20 by the repressive policies of the People’s Republic of
21 China, including those of Southern Mongolians, Ti-
22 betans, Uyghurs, and Hong Kongers, through the
23 World Cultures Center and other programs designed
24 to promote preservation efforts, as well as research,
25 exhibitions, and education programming.

1 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 of the Smithsonian Institution shall submit to the
4 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Sen-
5 ate and the Committee on House Administration of
6 the House of Representatives a report on its plans
7 to help preserve cultures endangered by the policies
8 of the People’s Republic of China, including those of
9 Southern Mongolians, Tibetans, Uyghurs, and Hong
10 Kongers.

11 (b) ASSISTANCE FOR CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS,
12 MUSEUMS, AND LIBRARIES.—

13 (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
14 Congress that the Director of the Institute for Mu-
15 seum and Library Sciences should establish a grant
16 program, or make available grants through an exist-
17 ing program, to support efforts by diaspora commu-
18 nities in the United States to preserve their cultural
19 heritage that is threatened by the repressive policies
20 of the People’s Republic of China, including the ef-
21 forts of Southern Mongolians, Tibetans, Uyghurs,
22 and Hong Kongers.

23 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
25 of the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences

1 shall submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-
2 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the
3 Committee on Education and Workforce of the
4 House of Representatives a report on the feasibility
5 of establishing a grant program, or to otherwise
6 make available grants through an existing program,
7 to support efforts by diaspora communities in the
8 United States to preserve their cultural heritage that
9 is threatened by the repressive policies of the Peo-
10 ple's Republic of China, including those of Southern
11 Mongolians, Tibetans, Uyghurs, and Hong Kongers,
12 including efforts to engage with such diaspora com-
13 munities.

14 **SEC. 9. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTHERN MON-**
15 **GOLIA.**

16 (a) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
17 United States to support the right of Southern Mongolians
18 to make decisions in accordance with principles of auton-
19 omy regarding their economic development, including the
20 ability to maintain traditional livelihoods, such as pas-
21 toralism, as well as cultural preservation, environmental
22 sustainability, and resource extraction, in areas designated
23 as autonomous for Southern Mongolians in the People's
24 Republic of China.

1 (b) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

2 The Secretary of the Treasury should instruct the United
3 States executive director of each international financial in-
4 stitution to use the voice and vote of the United States
5 to support financing of projects in areas designated as au-
6 tonomous for Mongolians in the People’s Republic of
7 China if such projects do not provide incentives for the
8 migration and settlement of non-Mongolians into Southern
9 Mongolian areas or facilitate the transfer of ownership of
10 Southern Mongolian land and natural resources to non-
11 Mongolians, are based on a thorough needs-assessment,
12 foster self-sufficiency of the Southern Mongolian people,
13 respect Mongolian culture, traditions, and traditional live-
14 lihoods, and are subject to effective monitoring.

15 (c) PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT.—The Secretary
16 of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce,
17 should encourage United States businesses and individuals
18 that are engaged in commerce or investing in enterprises
19 in areas designated as autonomous for Mongolians in the
20 People’s Republic of China to be guided by the United
21 Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human
22 Rights, including the creation, in consultation with other
23 relevant Departments, of a business advisory covering
24 such areas, with particular focus on the mining and ex-
25 tractive industries sector, that provides strict guidelines

1 not to directly or indirectly contribute to the violation of
2 the human rights of local Mongolians, harm to their com-
3 munities, or destruction of the natural environment and
4 traditional Mongolian way of life.

5 **SEC. 10. RARE EARTH MINING IN SOUTHERN MONGOLIA.**

6 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in
8 consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit
9 to the appropriate congressional committees a report on
10 the impact of large mining operations for rare earth min-
11 erals in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, in par-
12 ticular the Bayan-Obo mine, on the livelihoods of South
13 Mongolian residents, including forced displacement and
14 serious environmental degradation, and on United States
15 national security interests related to the operation and po-
16 tential expansion of rare earth mining operations.

17 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
18 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
19 gressional committees” has the meaning given the term
20 in section 6(d)(1).

○