

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8309

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide for the inclusion of additional information relating to internet freedom in Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2024

Ms. JACOBS (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide for the inclusion of additional information relating to internet freedom in Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

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 “Global Internet Free-
5 dom Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) internet freedom is important to the exer-
2 cise of human rights; and

3 (2) the United States Government should
4 proactively promote the principles of internet free-
5 dom around the world.

6 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELAT-**
7 **ING TO INTERNET FREEDOM IN ANNUAL**
8 **COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS**
9 **PRACTICES.**

10 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

11 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

12 (A) in paragraph (11)(C), by striking
13 “and” at the end;

14 (B) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking
15 the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
16 and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(12) wherever applicable, the extent to
19 which—

20 “(A) state or non-state actors create delib-
21 erate barriers to access to the internet, includ-
22 ing by shutting down connectivity or blocking
23 online content that is protected by international
24 human rights standards; and

1 “(B) the government engages in undue re-
2 strictions on free expression and violations of
3 privacy as they occur online, or legal and extra-
4 legal repercussions for online speech or activi-
5 ties that are protected by international human
6 rights standards.”; and

7 (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

8 (A) by redesignating the second subsection
9 (i) (as added by section 1207(b)(2) of Public
10 Law 113–4) as subsection (j); and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(k) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-
13 clude, wherever applicable a description of the extent to
14 which—

15 “(1) state or non-state actors create deliberate
16 barriers to access to the internet, including by shut-
17 ting down connectivity or blocking online content
18 that is protected by international human rights
19 standards; and

20 “(2) the government engages in undue restric-
21 tions on free expression and violations of privacy as
22 they occur online, or legal and extralegal repercus-
23 sions for online speech or activities that are pro-
24 tected by international human rights standards.”.

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