

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 496

AN ACT

To oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded or otherwise supported by or acting on behalf of Russia.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Ukraine Religious
3 Freedom Support Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

5 It is the policy of the United States—

6 (1) to never recognize the illegal, attempted an-
7 nexation of Crimea by the Government of the Russia
8 or the separation through the use of military force
9 or recognition of independence of any portion of
10 Ukrainian territory; and

11 (2) to consider any alien who, while serving as
12 an official of the Government of Russia, was respon-
13 sible for or directly carried out particularly severe
14 violations of religious freedom in the sovereign terri-
15 tory of Ukraine that Russia illegally occupies, con-
16 trols, or recognizes as independent, including
17 through non-state armed groups and illegal entities
18 it commands or otherwise supports or which act on
19 Russia’s behalf, to have committed particularly se-
20 vere violations of religious freedom for purposes of
21 applying section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration
22 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)) with
23 respect to any such alien.

1 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF RUSSIA AS A COUNTRY OF PAR-**
2 **TICULAR CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS FREE-**
3 **DOM.**

4 For purposes of making a determination of whether
5 to designate Russia as a country of particular concern for
6 religious freedom under section 402 of the International
7 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442), the
8 President shall consider any particularly severe violation
9 of religious freedom in the territory of Ukraine that Rus-
10 sia illegally occupies, controls, or recognizes as inde-
11 pendent, including through non-state armed groups and
12 illegal entities it commands or otherwise supports or which
13 act on Russia's behalf, during the period of time that is
14 the basis for the determination and designation, to be a
15 particularly severe violation of religious freedom that the
16 Government of Russia has engaged in or tolerated.

17 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

18 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
19 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
20 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
21 titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this
22 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
23 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-

- 1 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
- 2 vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives April 27, 2022.

Attest:

Clerk.

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