

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 2397

To amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to authorize further actions to promote freedom of information and democracy in North Korea, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 4, 2017

Mr. Yoho (for himself, Mr. Royce of California, Mr. Engel, and Mr. Sher-Man) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

- To amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to authorize further actions to promote freedom of information and democracy in North Korea, 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 "Distribution and Pro-
 - 5 motion of Rights and Knowledge Act of 2017" or the
 - 6 "DPRK Act of 2017".

1	SEC. 2. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
2	AND DEMOCRACY IN NORTH KOREA.
3	The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 is
4	amended—
5	(1) in subsection (a) of section 103 (22 U.S.C.
6	7813)—
7	(A) by striking "radio broadcasting" and
8	inserting "broadcasting, including news re-
9	broadcasting,"; and
10	(B) by striking "increase broadcasts" and
11	inserting "increase such broadcasts, including
12	news rebroadcasts,"; and
13	(2) in subsection (a) of section 104 (22 U.S.C.
14	7814)—
15	(A) by striking "The President" and in-
16	serting the following:
17	"(1) In general.—The President";
18	(B) by inserting ", USB drives, micro SD
19	cards, audio players, video players, cell phones,
20	wi-fi, wireless internet, webpages, internet, wire-
21	less telecommunications, and other electronic
22	media that shares information" before the pe-
23	riod at the end; and
24	(C) by adding at the end the following new
25	paragraphs:

"(2) DISTRIBUTION.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to distribute or provide grants to distribute information receiving devices, electronically readable devices, and other informational sources into North Korea, including devices and informational sources specified in paragraph (1). To carry out this paragraph, the President is authorized to issue directions to facilitate the free-flow of information into North Korea.

"(3) Research and development grant Program.—In accordance with the authorization described in paragraphs (1) and (2) to increase the availability and distribution of sources of information inside North Korea, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to establish a grant program to make grants to eligible entities to develop or distribute (or both) new products or methods to allow North Koreans easier access to outside information. Such program may involve public-private partnerships.

"(4) Culture.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors may broadcast Amer-

ican, Korean, Chinese, and other popular music, television, movies, and popular cultural references as part of its programming.

"(5) Rights and Laws.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall broadcast to North Korea in the Korean language information on rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and any other applicable treaties or international agreements to which North Korea is bound.

"(6) Broadcasting report.—Not later than—

"(A) 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that sets forth a detailed plan for improving broadcasting content for the purpose of targeting new audiences and increasing listenership; and

"(B) one year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and annually thereafter for each of the next five years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this section, including data reflecting audience and listenership, device distribution and usage, technological development and advancement usage, and other appropriate information to fully inform Congress.".

 \bigcirc