

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2732

To prohibit travel-related transactions to, from, and within North Korea by persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit travel-related transactions to, from, and within North Korea by persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, 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 “North Korea Travel
5 Control Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In recent years, there has been an increase
2 in tourist travel to North Korea by citizens of West-
3 ern countries, including the United States.

4 (2) In the last ten years, at least 17 United
5 States citizens have been detained in North Korea,
6 and at least four citizens remain imprisoned in
7 North Korea as of May 2017. These Americans
8 traveled to North Korea for a variety of reasons, in-
9 cluding tourism travel, lured in part by its secrecy
10 and decades of closure to the West.

11 (3) The Government of North Korea has re-
12 peatedly detained United States citizens to be used
13 as bargaining chips in negotiations over a variety of
14 issues, including North Korea's illegal nuclear weap-
15 ons program and ballistic missile development, and
16 as a way to extract diplomatic concessions.

17 (4) The United States has undertaken great
18 diplomatic efforts to secure the release of Americans
19 detained in North Korea, including through visits by
20 former United States Presidents and cabinet level
21 officials.

22 (5) The Department of State strongly discour-
23 ages travel to North Korea, stating in a travel warn-
24 ing that United States citizens are at "serious risk

1 of arrest and long-term detention under North Ko-
2 rea's system of law enforcement''.

3 (6) Travel to North Korea is a source of foreign
4 capital for the most self-isolated nation in the world,
5 helping to perpetuate an authoritarian regime which
6 brutally represses dissent.

7 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS PROHIBITING TRAVEL-RELATED**
8 **TRANSACTIONS TO, FROM, AND WITHIN**
9 **NORTH KOREA BY PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE**
10 **JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
13 Treasury shall issue regulations prohibiting transactions
14 related to travel to, from, or within North Korea by any
15 person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States un-
16 less authorized either by a general license issued by the
17 Secretary of the Treasury or on a case-by-case basis by
18 a specific license issued by the Secretary of the Treasury.

19 (b) PROHIBITION ON TRAVEL FOR TOURIST ACTIVI-
20 TIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
21 Secretary of the Treasury may not issue a general license
22 or a specific license for travel-related transactions for trav-
23 el to, from, or within North Korea by any person subject
24 to the jurisdiction of the United States if the primary pur-
25 pose of such travel is to engage in tourist activities.

1 (c) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in sec-
2 tion 206(b) of the International Emergency Economic
3 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705(b)) shall apply to a person
4 that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or
5 causes a violation of regulations promulgated under this
6 section to the same extent that such penalties apply to
7 a person that commits an unlawful act described in section
8 206(a) of that Act.

9 (d) PERSON SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE
10 UNITED STATES.—In this section, the term “person sub-
11 ject to the jurisdiction of the United States” has the
12 meaning given such term in section 515.329 of title 31,
13 Code of Federal Regulations.

14 (e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
15 beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of
16 the enactment of this Act.

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