

FACT SHEET: THE TIBETAN POLICY & SUPPORT ACT OF 2019

THE ASK: Call on the Senate to pass the Tibetan Policy & Support Act

BACKGROUND: The Tibetan Policy & Support Act (TPA) was introduced in the House (H.R. 4331) and the Senate (S.Res. 2539) in December 2019. In January, the House passed it by overwhelming majority.

WHAT IT IS: The Tibetan Policy and Support Act updates and strengthens the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002. Among others, it will make it official US policy that the Dalai Lama's succession is a strictly religious issue that only Tibetan Buddhists can decide on. If Chinese officials attempt to name a future Dalai Lama, they will face sanctions that could include having their assets frozen and their entry to the US denied.

WHAT IT DOES:

- The bill makes it official US policy that the succession or reincarnation of the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist leaders are exclusively religious issues that the Tibetan Buddhist community should decide on. Under the bill, any Chinese officials who attempt to interfere in this process could be subject to targeted sanctions.
- It commends the Dalai Lama and Tibetans in exile for adopting a democratic system of government
- The bill says no new Chinese consulates should be allowed in the US until a US consulate is established in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa.
- The bill identifies many of the major environmental crises occurring in Tibet under Chinese rule, from melting glaciers to a rate of warming more than twice the global average. It acknowledges that Tibet plays an essential role in providing water to surrounding countries in the Indo-Pacific region, meaning that a water shortage beginning in Tibet could affect the lives of more than 1 billion people.
- It formalizes funding for programs for Tibetans living in Tibet and in exile until at least 2025

CURRENT SPONSORS:

Sponsor: Marco Rubio [R-FL] | Co-sponsors (15 current – including 5 original) :
Ben Cardin [D-MD], Lindsey Graham [R-SC], Dianne Feinstein [D-CA], Tom Cotton [R-AR], Ed Markey [D-MA], Mike Braun [R-IN], Marsha Blackburn [R-TN], Patrick Leahy [D-VT], Jeff Merkley [D-OR], Thom Tillis [R-NC], Tammy Baldwin [D-WI], Martha McSally [R-AZ], John Cornyn [R-TX], Elizabeth Warren [D-MA], Chris Coons [D-DE]

What you can do:

SENATE: **CO-SPONSOR THE TIBETAN POLICY AND SUPPORT ACT (TPSA)**

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COSPONSORED TPSA, YOUR OFFICE COULD ASK SEN. RISCH, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO PUT IT ON THE AGENDA OF THEIR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE TIBETAN POLICY AND SUPPORT ACT.** THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED ITS VERSION, H.R.4331, ON JANUARY 28, 2020 WITH OVERWHELMING MAJORITY.