



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Tibetan Policy and Support Act

- Strengthens American Support for Tibetan Religious Freedom.

The current Dalai Lama, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, is one of the most beloved voices across the globe. His Holiness has dedicated his life to non-violence, compassion, and human dignity. Yet the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues its blatant attempts to delegitimize the Dalai Lama and punish Tibetan religious expression. Most overtly, the CCP claims to have authority to select and appoint the next Dalai Lama, contrary to Tibetan Buddhist tradition and process. **A new US law will help protect Tibetans' right to select their own leaders.**

The PRC's plans to control the selection of the next Dalai Lama is nothing more than a direct violation of religious freedom, part of the regime's systematic erosion of Tibetan identity and right to self-determination.



The Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 makes it official US policy that the Dalai Lama's succession is strictly a religious issue that only the Dalai Lama and his adherents can decide. If Chinese officials attempt to name a future Dalai Lama, they

will face sanctions that could include having assets frozen and entry to the US denied. The State Department also has been directed to work with like-minded countries worldwide to reject China's outrageous plan to appoint the next Dalai Lama.

Recognizing the need for Americans to have reciprocal access to Tibet, the TPSA will prevent China from opening a new consulate in the US until a US consulate is allowed in Lhasa, Tibet's historic capital city. The legislation also strengthens the landmark Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, addressing the increasingly severe environmental destruction in Tibet, including massive dam building that stands to worsen water security throughout the region. It also provides humanitarian assistance for Tibetans in Tibet and in exile and pushes China to negotiate with the Dalai Lama and Tibetan leaders without poison pill preconditions.

The TPSA passed Congress on Dec. 21, 2020. The bipartisan bill was then signed into law a few days later, launching a new era in US support for Tibet and providing a new source of hope for Tibetans.

Recommendations

Coordinate with other governments to encourage adoption of similar legislation supporting Tibetan's right to determine their own future.