



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Tibetan Policy and Support Act

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The succession of the Dalai Lama will help decide the future of Tibet.

The Chinese government plans to appoint its own Dalai Lama once the current one—who's now in his 80s—eventually passes away. But a new US law will help protect Tibetans' right to select their own leaders.

By rejecting China's claims over Tibet and supporting Tibetans' right to self-determination, the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act will put pressure on China to resume negotiations with Tibetan leaders.

The Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 makes it official US policy that the Dalai Lama's succession is a strictly [religious issue](#) that only he and his followers 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. The State Department will also have to work with like-minded countries worldwide to push back against China's outrageous plan to select the next Dalai Lama.

By appointing its own Dalai Lama, China hopes to increase its influence around the world. The [current Dalai Lama](#) has earned tremendous respect on every continent thanks to his tireless and peaceful advocacy for tolerance, dialogue and [nonviolence](#) in spite of Beijing's attacks. By appointing its own Dalai Lama, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) hopes to co-opt that legacy. We cannot allow this to go unpunished as it did when China [imposed its own Panchen Lama](#) in 1995. The future of Tibetan Buddhism belongs to Tibetan Buddhists and to the Dalai Lama, not to the CCP.

The Tibetan Policy and Support Act does much more to assist the Tibetan people. 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](#), addresses the issue of [water security and environmental destruction](#) in Tibet, provides humanitarian assistance for Tibetans in Tibet and in exile, and pushes China to negotiate with the Dalai Lama and Tibetan leaders without 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.

LEARN MORE

- [Take a longer look at the Tibetan Policy and Support Act »](#)
- [Find out how the TPSA became law »](#)
- [See the full text of the legislation »](#)

WATCH: [ICT's Matteo Mecacci hand-delivers the text of the bill to the Dalai Lama in India »](#)

WATCH: [ICT's Matteo Mecacci and Bhuchung Tsering discuss the passage of the TPSA and explain why it matters »](#)

