

May 26, 2015

Congressman Christopher Smith
The House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
FAX: (202) 225-5394

**RE: H. R. 2140 – Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015 (Smith)
Notice of Support**

Dear Congressman Smith:

The City of Garden Grove respectfully supports your human rights legislation, H.R. 2140 – Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015. This important measure attaches human rights conditions to trade and security agreements with Vietnam prohibiting U.S. non-humanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam in excess of FY 2014 amounts unless the President certifies to Congress that the government of Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, civil, media, Internet, and religious freedoms, minority rights, access to U.S. refugee programs, actions to end trafficking in persons and the release of religious and political prisoners.

We recognize and support that the bill additionally expresses the sense of Congress that:

- It shall be U.S. policy that further easing of the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam shall require Vietnam to take additional and sustained steps to advance human rights protections;
- The United States should take measures to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by Vietnam and that the Broadcasting Board of Governors should not cut staffing, funding, or broadcast hours for the Vietnamese language services of the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia;
- U.S.-Vietnam educational and cultural exchange programs should promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam;
- Vietnam should be designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and
- Vietnam does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.

Honorable Congressman Smith
May 26, 2015
Page 2

In 2006, the United States Congress agreed to Vietnam becoming an official member of the World Trade Organization amidst assurances that the Government of Vietnam was steadily improving its human rights record and would continue to do so. Yet, Vietnam remains a one-party state, ruled and controlled by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), and continues to deny the right of citizens to change their government and continues to disrespect and violate basic human rights.

This legislation sends a much needed message and response to the government in Vietnam that the United States will not support expansion of trade at the expense of human rights. We applaud and thank you for your leadership on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen
Mayor

Cc: The House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Representative Loretta Sanchez
Representative Alan Lowenthal
Representative Dana Rohrabacher

Approved for Agenda listing



Allan L. Roeder
Interim City Manager

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All Bill Information (Except Text) for H.R.2140 - Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015

114th Congress (2015-2016) | [Get alerts](#)

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Sponsor: [Rep. Smith, Christopher H. \[R-NJ-4\]](#) (Introduced 04/30/2015)

Committees: House - Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: 05/07/2015 Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

Tracker:

Introduced	Passed House	Passed Senate	To President
	Became Law		

More on This Bill

[Constitutional Authority Statement](#)

[View subjects](#)

There is 1 version of this bill. [View text](#)

Jump to: [Summary](#) | [Major Actions](#) | [All Actions](#) | [Titles](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Cosponsors](#) | [Committees](#) | [Related Bills](#)

Summary (1)

There is one summary for this bill. [View summaries](#)

Shown Here:

Introduced in House (04/30/2015)

Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015

Prohibits U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam in excess of FY2014 amounts unless the President certifies to Congress that the government of Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, civil, media, Intern and religious freedoms, minority rights, access to U.S. refugee programs, and actions to end trafficking in persons and the release of religious and political prisoners.

Authorizes the President to waive such requirements if increased U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance would promote the purp of this Act or is otherwise in the U.S. national interest. Allows the President to waive such authority with respect to: (1) all U.S nonhumanitarian assistance to Vietnam; or (2) one or more programs, projects, or activities of such assistance.

Expresses the sense of Congress that:

- it shall be U.S. policy that further easing of the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam shall require Vietnam to take additional and sustained steps to advance human rights protections;
- the United States should take measures to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by Vietnam and that the Broadcasting Board of Governors should not cut staffing, funding, or broadcast hours for the Vietnamese language services of the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia;
- U.S.-Vietnam educational and cultural exchange programs should promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam;
- Vietnam should be designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and
- Vietnam does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.

Major Actions (1)

Date

04/30/2015

Introduced in House

All Actions, Including Floor Amendments (3)

Date

05/07/2015

Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

Type of Action: Committee Consideration

Action By: House Foreign Affairs

04/30/2015

Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Type of Action: Introduction and Referral

Action By: House of Representatives

04/30/2015

Introduced in House

Type of Action: Introduction and Referral

Action By: House of Representatives

Titles (2)

Short Titles:

 Short Titles - House of Representatives

Short Titles as Introduced:

 Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015

Official Titles:

 Official Titles - House of Representatives

Official Title as Introduced:

To promote freedom, human rights, and the rule of law as part of United States-Vietnam relations.

Subjects (0)

Legislative analysts closely examine each bill and resolution to assign a policy area term that best describes the entire measure. There are 33 policy area terms which span across all legislation from 1973 to the present.

Legislative subject terms like those listed to the right thoroughly describe a measure's substance and effects. There are approximately 1,000 issue-oriented, entity, and geographic terms.

Cosponsors (8)

* = Original cosponsor

Cosponsor	Date Cosponsored
<u>Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]*</u>	04/30/2015
<u>Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]*</u>	04/30/2015
<u>Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]*</u>	04/30/2015
<u>Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-46]*</u>	04/30/2015

Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]*	04/30/2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]*	04/30/2015
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	05/12/2015
Rep. Emmer, Tom [R-MN-6]	05/12/2015

Committees (1)

Committees, subcommittees and links to reports associated with this bill are listed here, as well as the nature and date of [committee activity](#) and [Congressional report](#) number.

Committee / Subcommittee	Date	Activity	Repr
House Foreign Affairs	04/30/2015	Referral	
House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations	05/07/2015	Referral	

Fax: (202) 225-5394

Related Bills (0)

As of 05/14/2015 no related bill information has been received for H.R.2140 - Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015.