

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2404

To prohibit the availability of funds to provide assistance to foreign countries that criminalize or discriminate based on gender, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2023

Mr. SANTOS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit the availability of funds to provide assistance to foreign countries that criminalize or discriminate based on gender, 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 “Women’s Rights and
5 Protection Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR**
7 **FOREIGN COUNTRIES THAT CRIMINALIZE OR**
8 **DISCRIMINATE BASED ON GENDER.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection
10 (b), no Federal funds may be obligated or expended to

1 provide assistance, directly or indirectly, to a country de-
2 scribed in subsection (c).

3 (b) EXCEPTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may author-
5 ize an obligation or expenditure of Federal funds to
6 assist a country described in subsection (c) only if
7 the President determines, on a case-by-case basis,
8 that such proposed obligation or expenditure is vital
9 to the national security interests of the United
10 States.

11 (2) BRIEFING.—Upon making a determination
12 under paragraph (1), the President, acting through
13 the Secretary of State, shall provide to the appro-
14 priate congressional committees and congressional
15 leadership a briefing on such determination.

16 (c) COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.—A country described in
17 this subsection is a foreign country the government of
18 which the President determines has enacted or established
19 and is implementing any provision of law, or provision
20 which has the force and effect of law, that criminalizes
21 or discriminates on the basis of gender, including through
22 such provisions that, on the basis of gender—

23 (1) limit or prohibit women from—

24 (A) enrolling in or attending any edu-
25 cational institution, school, or other program of

1 instruction, or otherwise seeking or receiving
2 education activities;

3 (B) operating a vehicle;

4 (C) freely exercising any religion; or

5 (D) walking or otherwise traveling without
6 a male escort; or

7 (2) authorize (including as a form of punish-
8 ment) female genital mutilation, sexual abuse, be-
9 heading, or any other practice that targets the lives
10 of women.

11 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
13 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees” means the following:

15 (A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs and
16 the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
17 of the House of Representatives.

18 (B) The Committee on Foreign Relations
19 and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the
20 Senate.

21 (2) CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.—The term
22 “congressional leadership” means the following:

23 (A) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives.

1 (B) The minority leader of the House of
2 Representatives.

3 (C) The majority leader of the Senate.

4 (D) The minority leader of the Senate.

5 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on
6 the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act.

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