

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3737

To address Chinese Communist Party efforts to censor the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To address Chinese Communist Party efforts to censor the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, 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 “Tiananmen Massacre
5 Transparency and Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) June 4, 2025, is the 36th anniversary of
9 the brutal crackdown on peaceful demonstrations for

1 democratic reforms held on Tiananmen Square in
2 central Beijing.

3 (2) For the past 36 years, the Chinese Com-
4 munist Party and the Government of the People's
5 Republic of China has—

6 (A) censored any mention of the brutal
7 crackdown on peaceful demonstrations held in
8 Tiananmen Square in central Beijing and in an
9 estimated 400 other cities in the People's Re-
10 public of China;

11 (B) banned schools from teaching about
12 the pro-democracy protests of 1989 and their
13 brutal suppression on June 4th of that year by
14 the People's Liberation Army (PLA);

15 (C) blocked internet search terms and re-
16 moved content related to the June 4, 1989,
17 crackdown;

18 (D) disappeared the person known as
19 “Tank Man” because of his courageous attempt
20 to stop the advance of PLA tanks;

21 (E) prevented the Tiananmen Mother's
22 group from publicly mourning or remembering
23 their family members killed during the crack-
24 down;

1 (F) arbitrarily detained individuals who
2 call for a full, public, and independent account-
3 ing of the wounded, dead, and imprisoned for
4 participating in the spring 1989 demonstra-
5 tions;

6 (G) supported the Government of the
7 Hong Kong Special Administration Region's
8 suppression of the annual Tiananmen vigil
9 which was, until 2020, the only commemoration
10 allowed on the People's Republic of China terri-
11 tory;

12 (H) backed the arrest the organizers and
13 participants of the annual vigil in Hong Kong,
14 including Chow Hang-tung, Jimmy Lai, Joshua
15 Wong, Gwyneth Ho, and Lee Cheuk-yan;

16 (I) supported criminal schemes to silence
17 critics of the People's Republic of China in the
18 United States according to Department of Jus-
19 tice indictments, including seeking to destroy a
20 California sculpture park that contained statues
21 commemorating the Tiananmen Massacre and
22 plotting to disrupt the New York political cam-
23 paign of a former Tiananmen student leader;

24 (J) hid the fact that an estimated
25 1,000,000 people, from all walks of life, includ-

1 ing students, government employees, journal-
2 ists, workers, police officers, and members of
3 the Armed Forces called for democratic reforms
4 in 1989—seeking the elimination of corruption,
5 accelerated economic and political reforms, pro-
6 tection of human rights, particularly the free-
7 doms of expression and assembly—concerns
8 that remain pertinent in China today; and

9 (K) never acknowledged the use of exces-
10 sive force nor apologized for the deaths and in-
11 juries caused by ordering the armed PLA
12 troops and tanks into Beijing.

13 (3) The United States Congress took steps,
14 over the past 36 years, to mark the Tiananmen
15 demonstrations and their violent suppression because
16 of the profound impact the event has had on United
17 States-People’s Republic of China relations and be-
18 cause commemorating Tiananmen was censored and
19 banned in China and now in Hong Kong.

20 (4) Section 7031(c) of the Consolidated Appro-
21 priations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–47), as carried
22 forward by Public Law 119–4, authorizes the Sec-
23 retary of State to deny entry into the United States
24 “officials of foreign governments and their imme-
25 diate family members about whom the Secretary of

1 State has credible information have been involved,
2 directly or indirectly, in . . . a gross violation of
3 human rights”.

4 (5) Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration
5 and Nationality Act makes inadmissible any foreign
6 person “whose entry or proposed activities in the
7 United States the Secretary of State has reasonable
8 ground to believe would have potentially serious ad-
9 verse foreign policy consequences for the United
10 States”.

11 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

12 It is the policy of the United States to—

13 (1) mark the solemn significance of the 1989
14 demonstrations and the impact the Tiananmen Mas-
15 sacre has had on United States-People’s Republic of
16 China relations;

17 (2) create strategies to address the Chinese
18 Communist Party’s censorship and restrictions on
19 the free flow of news and information that limit
20 what the Chinese people know about the Party’s ac-
21 tions and what the world knows about China;

22 (3) seek to secure the release of Jimmy Lai and
23 any others jailed for participating in Tiananmen
24 Massacre vigils;

1 (4) use existing sanctions authorities to hold ac-
2 countable the People’s Republic of China officials
3 engaged in censorship actions, particularly those tar-
4 geting United States technology platforms and
5 United States citizens;

6 (5) protect United States citizens and legal
7 residents, including those seeking within the United
8 States to commemorate the Tiananmen Massacre or
9 those publicly calling for democratic reforms in
10 China, from intimidation or harassment by the Gov-
11 ernment of the People’s Republic of China or indi-
12 viduals acting on its behalf;

13 (6) pursue criminal prosecutions under United
14 States law to hold accountable the Government of
15 the People’s Republic of China and those individuals
16 acting on its behalf for engaging in transnational re-
17 pression targeting United States citizens and legal
18 residents;

19 (7) raise in diplomatic exchanges with officials
20 of the Government of the People’s Republic of
21 China, as appropriate, the economic and strategic
22 benefits for United States-China relations of trans-
23 parency and an end to censorship, including about
24 the Tiananmen Massacre; and

1 (8) use the voice, vote, and influence of the
2 United States at the United Nations to—

3 (A) address censorship and restrictions
4 placed on the free flow of news and information
5 by the Government of the People’s Republic of
6 China;

7 (B) condemn the transnational repression
8 campaigns conducted by the Government of the
9 People’s Republic of China targeting United
10 States citizens and legal residents; and

11 (C) seek decisions by the Working Group
12 on Arbitrary Detention on the cases of individ-
13 uals unjustly detained by the Government of
14 the People’s Republic of China and the Govern-
15 ment of the Hong Kong Special Administration
16 Region.

17 **SEC. 4. TIANANMEN MASSACRE EXHIBITION.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that the Librarian of Con-
19 gress should work with relevant nongovernment organiza-
20 tions, such as the Victims of Communism Memorial Foun-
21 dation and June 4th Memorial Association, to stage exhib-
22 its, in person and online, to showcase the history of the
23 Tiananmen protests, highlight the stories of Tiananmen
24 Massacre survivors who are now United States citizens,
25 and demonstrate the enduring legacy on United States-

- 1 People's Republic of China relations of the pro-democracy
- 2 demonstrations and their violent suppression.

