

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4549

To require annual reports on religious intolerance in Saudi Arabian educational materials, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To require annual reports on religious intolerance in Saudi Arabian educational materials, 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 “Saudi Educational  
5 Transparency and Reform Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi  
9 Arabia for more than 15 years has made incre-

1 mental progress in removing intolerant content in  
2 state-published textbooks.

3 (2) Saudi Arabia has committed to educational  
4 reforms through its Vision 2030 and National  
5 Transformation Program, and is an important part-  
6 ner of the United States in combating terrorism and  
7 violent extremism.

8 (3) The 2006 “confirmation of policies” nego-  
9 tiated by the United States and Saudi Arabia stated  
10 that textbooks would be revised within one or two  
11 years “to remove remaining intolerant references  
12 that disparage Muslims or non-Muslims or that pro-  
13 mote hatred toward other religions or religious  
14 groups.”.

15 (4) According to the Department of State’s Au-  
16 gust 2017 International Religious Freedom Report,  
17 “[t]he government continued to distribute revised  
18 textbooks, although some intolerant material re-  
19 mained in circulation, particularly at the high school  
20 level, including content justifying the execution of  
21 ‘sorcerers’ ” and social exclusion of non-Muslims.

22 (5) Saudi textbooks have been exported inter-  
23 nationally, including to countries in the Middle East,  
24 Africa, South, Central, and South East Asia, and  
25 parts of Europe and North America.

1           (6) The International Religious Freedom Act of  
2           1998 requires the President to designate countries  
3           in which violations of religious freedom are “system-  
4           atic, ongoing, [and] egregious” as countries of par-  
5           ticular concern.

6           (7) The President has designated Saudi Arabia  
7           as a country of particular concern since 2004, pur-  
8           suant to the International Religious Freedom Act of  
9           1998, and a waiver of further action has been in  
10          place since 2006.

11 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12          It is the sense of Congress that, in spite of some  
13          progress, Saudi Arabia has not yet sufficiently met its  
14          commitments for eliminating all forms of incitement from  
15          its educational materials and curriculum in line with its  
16          commitments to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

17 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

18          (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d), not  
19          later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of  
20          this Act and every year thereafter within 90 days of the  
21          start of the new school year in Saudi Arabia for the next  
22          ten years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Com-  
23          mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives  
24          and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate  
25          a report reviewing educational materials published by

1 Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education that are used in  
2 schools both inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and at  
3 schools throughout the world.

4 (b) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 30 days after  
5 the submission of a report under subsection (a), the Sec-  
6 retary of State shall consult with the Committee on For-  
7 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
8 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on the contents  
9 of each such report.

10 (c) CONTENTS.—The reports required under sub-  
11 section (b) should include the following:

12 (1) A detailed determination regarding whether  
13 all intolerant content has been removed from edu-  
14 cational materials published by Saudi Arabia's Min-  
15 istry of Education that are used in schools both in-  
16 side the Saudi Arabia and at schools throughout the  
17 world, including full quotations of all passages that  
18 could be seen as encouraging violence or intolerance  
19 towards adherents of religions other than Islam or  
20 towards Muslims who hold dissenting views.

21 (2) A detailed assessment of the global expor-  
22 tation of such materials, including the extent to  
23 which such materials are used in privately funded  
24 educational institutions overseas.

1           (3) A detailed summary of actions the Saudi  
2 Government has taken to retrieve and destroy mate-  
3 rials with intolerant material.

4           (4) A detailed assessment of the Saudi Govern-  
5 ment's efforts to revise teacher manuals and retrain  
6 teachers to reflect changes in educational materials  
7 and promote tolerance.

8           (5) A detailed determination regarding whether  
9 issuing a waiver regarding Saudi Arabia as a coun-  
10 try of particular concern under the International Re-  
11 ligious Freedom Act of 1998 furthers the purposes  
12 of such Act or is otherwise in the important national  
13 security interests of the United States.

14 (d) TERMINATION.—

15           (1) BEFORE TEN YEARS.—If at any time after  
16 submission of a report required under subsection (a)  
17 but before the expiration of the 10-year period re-  
18 ferred to in such subsection, the Secretary of State  
19 determines that intolerant religious content has been  
20 removed completely from Saudi Arabia's education  
21 materials, the requirement to submit any remaining  
22 reports under such subsection shall not apply.

23           (2) AT TEN YEARS.—If at the end of the 10-  
24 year period referred to in subsection (a), the Sec-  
25 retary of State determines that intolerant religious

1 content remains in Saudi Arabia's education mate-  
2 rials, the termination of the requirement to submit  
3 reports under such subsection shall not apply and  
4 such reports shall be submitted for a further five  
5 years.

6 (e) FORM.—Reports under this section shall be sub-  
7 mitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classi-  
8 fied annex.

9 **SEC. 5. TRANSPARENCY.**

10 Not later than 60 days after the submission of the  
11 annual reports required under section 4, the Secretary of  
12 State shall make copies of reviewed Saudi educational ma-  
13 terials publicly available on a website of the Department  
14 of State.

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