Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act — House Bill

(Passed by the House December 8, 2021)

(H.R.1155)

The bipartisan Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act aims to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Uyghur Region do not enter the United States market. The bill addresses gross violations of human rights against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims through targeted sanctions and import restrictions, and encourages action on such imports internationally. In the House, the bill was introduced by Congressman James McGovern (D), with the support of Congressman Chris Smith (R) and 5 other original co-sponsors.

The legislation:

● Finds that forced labor in East Turkistan is Chinese government policy and that vetting to ensure clean supply chains is unreliable, due to mass surveillance, pervasive police presence, and intimidation of workers.

● Creates a prohibition on importation of goods produced in East Turkistan, or by companies working with the Xinjiang government for purposes of “poverty alleviation” and “pairing-assistance” programs, because they are deemed to be made with forced labor. Goods can only be imported if U.S. border authorities are provided “clear and convincing evidence” that these goods were not produced with forced labor, in whole or in part.

● Within 120 days, requires the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force to submit a report with an enforcement strategy to address forced labor, including a description of all WRO orders issued, a list of products made using forced labor, a list of Chinese entities using forced labor, and a list of high priority sectors for enforcement.

● Within 180 days, requires the Secretary of State to submit a report with a formal determination of whether human rights abuses constitute genocide or crimes against humanity.

● Within 90 days, requires the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on U.S. government efforts to enhance international awareness and address Uyghur forced labor, providing a list of Chinese entities that use Uyghur forced labor, a list of products made by forced labor, and a list of businesses that have sold such products in the U.S.

● Within 180 days, requires the President to submit a report identifying and then imposing Global Magnitsky sanctions on foreign persons who are responsible for “serious human rights abuses in connection with forced labor.”
Within 180 days, through amendment of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, requires publicly listed companies to disclose transactions with any company that:

- Creates or provides technology to build mass surveillance systems in East Turkistan.
- Builds or operates mass internment camps.
- Purchases textiles produced or manufactured in East Turkistan.
- Manufactures goods in East Turkistan.
- Is sanctioned by the U.S. government for atrocities committed against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims.