

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9700

To prohibit bilateral economic assistance, including assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to foreign governments that abridge the right to free speech that would be speech protected by the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. BURCHETT) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit bilateral economic assistance, including assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to foreign governments that abridge the right to free speech that would be speech protected by the Constitution of the United States, 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 “No Funds for Fascists
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE TO CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to
4 be appropriated or otherwise made available for bilateral
5 economic assistance, including assistance under the For-
6 eign Assistance Act of 1961, for any fiscal year that be-
7 gins on or after the date of the enactment of this Act may
8 be obligated or expended to provide assistance to the gov-
9 ernment of any foreign country if the Secretary of State
10 determines that—

11 (1) such government, or any employee acting
12 under official authority or influence—

13 (A) abridges the right to free speech that
14 would be speech protected by the Constitution
15 of the United States; or

16 (B) censors speech that would be speech
17 protected by the Constitution of the United
18 States; and

19 (2) such government, or any employee acting
20 under official authority or influence, uses any form
21 of communication (without regard to whether the
22 communication is visible to members of the public)
23 to direct, coerce, compel, or encourage a provider of
24 a covered platform to take, suggest or imply that a
25 provider of a covered platform should take, or re-
26 quest that a provider of a covered platform take, any

1 action to censor speech that would be speech pro-
2 tected by the Constitution of the United States.

3 (b) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Sec-
4 retary of State shall publish in the Federal Register each
5 determination made under subsection (a).

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 (1) the term “covered platform” means—

8 (A) an interactive computer service, as
9 that term is defined in section 230(f) of the
10 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
11 230(f)); and

12 (B) any platform through which a media
13 organization disseminates information, without
14 regard to whether the organization disseminates
15 that information—

16 (i) through broadcast or print;

17 (ii) online; or

18 (iii) through any other channel; and

19 (2) the term “employee acting under official au-
20 thority or influence”, with respect to a foreign gov-
21 ernment, means—

22 (A) any employee of such government; and

23 (B) includes—

24 (i) a head of state or head of such
25 government; and

- 1 (ii) an individual working under con-
- 2 tract with such government.

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