

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4211

To prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2000

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. GREENWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

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 “Global Democracy Pro-  
5       motion Act of 2000”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Freedom of speech is a fundamental Amer-  
2           ican value. The ability to exercise the right to free  
3           speech, which includes the “right of the people  
4           peaceably to assemble, and to petition the govern-  
5           ment for a redress of grievances” is essential to a  
6           thriving democracy and is protected under the  
7           United States Constitution.

8           (2) The promotion of democracy is a principal  
9           goal of United States foreign policy and critical to  
10          achieving sustainable development. It is enhanced  
11          through the encouragement of democratic institu-  
12          tions and the promotion of an independent and po-  
13          litically active civil society in developing countries.

14          (3) Limiting eligibility for United States devel-  
15          opment and humanitarian assistance upon the will-  
16          ingness of a foreign nongovernmental organization  
17          to forgo its right to use its own funds to address,  
18          within the democratic process, a particular issue af-  
19          fecting the citizens of its own country directly under-  
20          mines a key goal of United States foreign policy and  
21          would violate the United States Constitution if ap-  
22          plied to United States-based organizations.

23          (4) Similarly, limiting the eligibility for United  
24          States assistance on a foreign nongovernmental or-  
25          ganization’s willingness to forgo its right to provide,

1 with its own funds, medical services that are legal in  
2 its own country and would be legal if provided in the  
3 United States constitutes unjustifiable interference  
4 with the ability of independent organizations to serve  
5 the critical health needs of their fellow citizens and  
6 demonstrates a disregard and disrespect for the laws  
7 of sovereign nations as well as for the laws of the  
8 United States.

9 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN NONGOVERNMENTAL**  
10 **ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL ORGA-**  
11 **NIZATIONS UNDER PART I OF THE FOREIGN**  
12 **ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.**

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in deter-  
14 mining eligibility for assistance authorized under part I  
15 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151  
16 et seq.), foreign nongovernmental organizations and multi-  
17 lateral organizations—

18 (1) shall not be subject to requirements relating  
19 to the use of non-United States Government funds  
20 for advocacy and lobbying activities other than those  
21 that apply to United States nongovernmental organi-  
22 zations receiving assistance under part I of such  
23 Act; and

24 (2) shall not be ineligible for such assistance  
25 solely on the basis of health or medical services pro-

1 vided by such organizations with non-United States  
2 Government funds if such services do not violate the  
3 laws of the country in which they are being provided  
4 and would not violate United States Federal law if  
5 provided in the United States.

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