



Republican National Committee

Counsel's Office

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A BIPARTISAN BILL SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

WHEREAS, Hong Kong has long been a center of freedom and commerce with its citizens enjoying the rich benefits of a free society; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the British turnover of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the joint declaration between the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China (1984) Beijing promised Hong Kong would enjoy a "high degree of autonomy" including universal suffrage guaranteed under the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, in recent years Beijing has undermined the "one country, two systems" and infringed upon the basic freedoms the residents of Hong Kong are supposed to be guaranteed; and

WHEREAS, China's assault on democratic institutions and human rights and freedoms is of great importance to the people of Hong Kong and to its status as a free market economic powerhouse and hub for international trade and investment; and

WHEREAS, it has always been in the U.S. interest to support human freedom, democratization, and the continued vitality, prosperity and stability of Hong Kong as set forth in The United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992; and

THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Republican National Committee endorses a bi-partisan Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy bill sponsored by Republican Senator Marco Rubio, (FL) and Democrat Senator Ben Cardin, (MD) which:

- Reaffirms the principles set forth in the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, including support for democratization, human rights, and the importance of Hong Kong remaining sufficiently autonomous from China to justify different treatment under U.S. law.
- Reinstates the requirement for the Secretary of State to issue a report on conditions in Hong Kong of interest to the United States, including developments related to democratic

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institutions in Hong Kong, no later than 90 days after enactment and every year through 2023.

- Requires the Secretary of State to certify that Hong Kong is sufficiently autonomous before enacting any new laws or agreements affording Hong Kong different treatment from the People's Republic of China.
- Requires the President to identify persons responsible for the surveillance, abduction, detention, or forced confessions of certain booksellers and journalists in Hong Kong, and other actions suppressing basic freedoms, and to freeze their U.S.-based assets and deny them entry into the U.S.
- Makes clear that visa applicants who resided in Hong Kong in 2014 shall not be denied visas on the basis of the applicant's arrest, detention or other adverse government action taken as a result of their participation in the nonviolent protest activities related to Hong Kong's electoral process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Republican National Committee stands in support of this bipartisan legislation to help promote human rights and freedom and urges the Congress to pass The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy bill and present it to President Donald Trump to sign it into law as soon as possible in the current session.