

METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The **International Religious Freedom (IRF) Congressional Scorecard** reports on the 116 Congress, the term of which was January 2019 through December 2020. The scoring system is designed to encourage reliable and consistent scoring of federal legislation relevant to international religious freedom. To avoid bias, we base inclusion criteria on important bills, resolutions, and amendments that protect and promote international religious freedom in the U.S. Senate and the House. Legislative data is sourced from www.congress.gov.

Legislators can also demonstrate their support through membership in caucuses. For the House, scoring acknowledges membership in the International Religious Freedom Caucus, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, the Congressional Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus, the Religious Minorities in the Middle East (RMME) Caucus and the Defending Freedoms Project. Members in the Senate who participate in the Senate Human Rights Caucus, the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combatting Anti-Semitism and the Defending Freedoms Project also earn points.

It is important to note that while the IRF Congressional Scorecard is a resource for analyzing a legislator's current support for international religious freedom issues, it is not the only measure of his or her record. Many bills and resolutions introduced in Congress are never scheduled for a vote. For that reason, the IRF Congressional Scorecard awards points for sponsorship or co-sponsorship of relevant international religious freedom bills that are introduced, but have not received a vote.

FIVE METRICS

Metrics scored with points awarded for the following demonstrations of support:

- I** Sponsoring or cosponsoring IRF bills, resolutions, and amendments
- II** Voting for such items
- III** Chairing or co-chairing relevant caucuses
- IV** Membership in relevant caucuses
- V** Participate as an Advocate for Prisoner of Conscience/Defending Freedoms Project

Low scores do not necessarily indicate disagreement with international religious freedom legislation, but rather that it was not a high priority for that legislator. Conversely, high scores indicate that a given legislator has made support of international religious freedom a priority.

By custom, the Speaker of the House (Nancy Pelosi D-CA) and the House Minority Leader (Kevin McCarthy R-CA) do not vote on all issues and, therefore, they are not scored. Representatives Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Michael F. Q. San Nicholas (D-GU), Gregorio Sablan (D-NMI), Jenniffer González-Colón (R-

PR) and Stacey Plaskett (D-VI) served as non-voting delegates, but their level of support for scored items is noted.

CALCULATION OF SCORES – SENATE AND HOUSE

CODE	ACTION	Points
Y	VOTED YES	1
CS	COSPONSOR	1
OCS	ORIGINAL COSPONSOR	2
PS	PRIMARY SPONSOR	2
CA	CONGRESSIONAL ADVOCATE-POC	1
M	CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP	1
C-C	CAUCUS CO-CHAIR	2

Maximum points for bill, resolution, or amendment 3 points

Unanimous consent or voice vote 1 point

Maximum possible score in the Senate: 90 points

(26 of 37 scored items did not come to a vote)

Maximum possible score in the House: 134 points

(34 of 54 scored items did not come to a vote)

NOTE:

Selection criteria for **Notable Leaders** in the Senate is a score of 23 points or higher and in the House a score of 35 points or higher.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCORECARD PROCESS

An analyst is responsible for determining the content of the Scorecard, including evaluation criteria and scores. Our research associate manages the Scorecard process and participates in data-gathering and scoring. 21 Wilberforce staff provide feedback on the legislation selected to be scored.

DISCLAIMER

A Scorecard is an imperfect tool; there are additional factors that cannot be reflected therein. Not all efforts made in the promotion and protection of international religious freedom can be publicly recorded. We recognize that members and their staff can and do support international religious freedom through quiet diplomacy and casework, such as letters to the President, legislators, ambassadors, and other foreign officials. Members also prioritize efforts on behalf of their constituents. And last, family-related issues may arise, such as the birth of a child or a death in the family, which may result in legislators missing votes.

The IRF Congressional Scorecard is an educational tool meant to highlight and track key activity related to international religious freedom. It should not be perceived as an effort to support or endorse specific legislators or candidates.