



OVERVIEW

The **International Religious Freedom (IRF) Congressional Scorecard** reports on the 117th Congress, the term of which was January 2021 through December 2022. 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 and by participating in the Defending Freedoms Project.. 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 of 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 support for international religious freedom issues during the 117th Congress, 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 a Congressional 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.

Representatives Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Michael F. Q. San Nicolas (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.

METHODOLOGY



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	CO-CHAIR	2

Maximum possible points per bill, resolution, or amendment	3 points
When unanimous consent or voice vote, all members receive	1 point

Maximum possible score in the Senate: (including advocate and memberships)	61 points
Maximum possible score in the House: (including advocate and memberships)	82 points

NOTE:

The selection criteria for **Notable Leaders** in the Senate and the House is an A+ or A grade.

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. Sabatier Consulting 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 activities related to international religious freedom. It should not be perceived as an effort to support or endorse specific legislators or candidates.