Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (H.R.6210 & S.3471)

The bipartisan Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act aims to ensure that goods made with forced labor in East Turkistan do not enter the United States market. The bill addresses gross violations of human rights against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims through targeted sanctions, export restrictions and import controls, and encourages action on such imports internationally. In the House, the bill was introduced by Congressman James McGovern (D), with the support of Congressman Chris Smith (R) and 10 additional original co-sponsors. In the Senate, the bill was introduced by Senator Marco Rubio (R), with the support of Senator Jeff Merkely (D) and 9 additional original co-sponsors.

The legislation:

- Finds that forced labor in East Turkistan is Chinese government policy and that “due diligence” to ensure clean supply chains is not possible, due to mass surveillance, pervasive police presence, and intimidation of workers.
- Creates a “rebuttable presumption” that goods produced in East Turkistan, or by companies working with the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region government for purposes of “poverty alleviation” and “pairing-assistance” programs, are made with forced labor. Before allowing goods to be imported, U.S. border authorities will require “clear and convincing evidence” that these goods were not produced with forced labor, in whole or in part.
- Requires a determination by the Secretary of State as to whether forced labor in East Turkistan is “widespread and systematic and therefore constitutes atrocities.”
- Requires the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on U.S. government efforts to enhance international awareness and address Uyghur forced labor, providing a list of Chinese entities that use Uyghur forced labor, a list of products made by forced labor, and a list of businesses that have sold such products in the U.S.
- Requires the President to impose sanctions on foreign persons who “knowingly engage” in Uyghur forced labor or attempt to “contravene U.S. law on importation of forced labor goods.”
- Requires publicly listed companies to disclose transactions with any company that:
  - Creates or provides technology to build mass surveillance systems in East Turkistan.
  - Builds or operates mass internment camps.
  - Purchases textiles produced or manufactured in East Turkistan.
  - Manufactures goods in East Turkistan.
  - Is sanctioned by the U.S. government for gross violations of human rights or other atrocities committed against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims.