Building on the success of the Tibetan Policy and Support Act

The Tibetan Policy and Support Act (TPSA) received overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress and was signed into law in 2020. Since, the TPSA has delivered a proven track record of both sustaining survival of the Tibetan people's civilization, aspirations for freedom, and resistance to China's malign influence. With some of its provisions sunsetting this year, Congress must act to reauthorize this valuable and effective law.

Building on the landmark Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, TPSA works to secure American interests and counter Chinese influence by, among other things:

- Making it official US policy that the selection of a future Dalai Lama should follow the instructions of the current Dalai Lama without interference from the Chinese government and sanctioning Chinese officials if they carry out their plans to appoint their own Dalai Lama in the future.
- Strengthening diplomatic efforts through the office of the special coordinator for Tibetan issues in the State Department to push for a negotiated solution between the Chinese government and the representatives of the Dalai Lama.
- Forbidding China from opening a new consulate in the US until China allows a US consulate in Lhasa, Tibet's capital city.
- Formalizing funding for humanitarian projects for Tibetans inside and outside Tibet until at least 2025.
- Addressing China's weaponization of water in the region. Tibet is the source of Asia's major rivers which provide water to 1.8 billion downstream.

"The United States remains committed to protecting the universal, fundamental, and inalienable human rights of Tibetans and promoting their distinct cultural, linguistic, and religious heritage.

– Secretary Marco Rubio, Feb. 2025

TPSA was designed to strengthen decades long bipartisan support for Tibet by foreign policy leaders and Tibet champions on both sides of the aisle. The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved the bill unanimously at a markup hearing, with then Committee Chairman Eliot Engel saying, "With this bill, we send a clear message: If Chinese officials infringe on the religious freedom of the Tibetan people, we will hold them accountable." Rep. Chris Smith added that, "The policies of the Chinese government have severely degraded Tibetan religion and culture, language, livelihood and the natural environment."

Marco Rubio, then co-chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, described the TPSA as "much needed" amid "new challenges posed by the Chinese Communist Party against Tibetans." "We must continue to shine a bright light on the Chinese government's repression of the Tibetan people," he said, "and explore new tools to protect their religion, language, and culture, both inside and outside China."

URGENT NEED FOR RENEWAL

American support is vital to Tibet and the Tibetan people as they work to protect their identity and heritage. The Tibetans stand on the frontline of the global effort for freedom and countering the malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party.

Congress must reauthorize the funding and programs we designed to aid them. In the years since TPSA passed these appropriations have enabled the Tibetan people to expose the CCP's true nature to the world while buttressing their institutions to serve as a counterweight to Chinese autocracy.

The Chinese Communist Party's is relentless in its repression of the Tibetan people and seeks to use Tibet's strategic location to advance a goal of regional domination. The Tibetan people, on the other hand, have maintained over six decades of long-standing struggle for their rights, and enjoy broad support from the American people in the struggle to maintain their culture, dignity and freedom. Their nonviolent resistance in the pursuit of human rights, rule of law, and freedom offers a path of peace in a world fraught with conflict.

In conclusion, America's support for Tibet is bipartisan and contributes to America's own strength, prosperity, and stability. We cannot afford to cede this strategic ground to China's furthering influence and ambitions throughout the world, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.