

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2231

Concerning international women's human rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 1993

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

Concerning international women's human rights.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Women's Human
5 Rights Protection Act of 1993".

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings and dec-
8 larations:

9 (1) It is the sense of Congress that the State
10 Department should designate within the appropriate
11 bureau a special assistant to the Assistant Secretary
12 to promote international women's human rights

1 within the overall human rights policy of the United
2 States Government.

3 (2) The purpose of assigning a special assistant
4 on women's human rights issues is not to segregate
5 such issues, but rather to assure that they are con-
6 sidered along with other human rights issues in the
7 development of United States foreign policy.

8 (3) A specifically designated special assistant is
9 necessary because within the human rights field and
10 the foreign policy establishment, the issues of gen-
11 der-based discrimination and violence against women
12 have long been ignored or made invisible.

13 (4) The Congress believes that abuses against
14 women would have greater visibility and protection
15 of women's human rights would improve if the advo-
16 cate were responsible for integrating women's
17 human rights issues into United States human
18 rights policy in ways including, but not limited to,
19 the following:

20 (A) The designated women's human rights
21 advocate would seek to assure that the issue of
22 abuses against women, along with human rights
23 issues generally, are a factor in determining ap-
24 propriate recipients for United States bilateral

1 assistance as well as United States votes at the
2 multilateral development banks.

3 (B) The advocate would work with the re-
4 gional bureaus of the Department of State to
5 devise strategies for the executive branch to
6 bring pressure to bear on governments that en-
7 gage in violence or systematic discrimination
8 against women or fail to afford equal treatment
9 of women before the law.

10 (C) The advocate would, in consultation
11 with the bureau responsible for international or-
12 ganizations, pursue strategies to increase the
13 visibility and integration of gender-based perse-
14 cution and violence in multilateral fora includ-
15 ing, but not limited to, the United States Com-
16 mission on Human Rights and the Working
17 Group on Torture.

18 (D) The advocate would seek to assure
19 that the United States Trade Representative
20 conduct inquiries and take steps to prevent
21 countries from receiving trade benefits under
22 the Generalized System of Preferences and
23 most favored nation status where governments
24 fail to address violence, systematic discrimina-
25 tion, and exploitation of women workers.

1 (E) The advocate would seek to assure
2 that the protection of women's human rights,
3 including womens' participation in the political
4 process, women's right to freedom of associa-
5 tion and expression, and freedom from discrimi-
6 nation, would be addressed in the context of
7 United States funded programs in the area of
8 democracy including, but not limited to, democ-
9 racy programs at the Agency for International
10 Development (AID), democracy programs for
11 Eastern Europe funded by the Support Eastern
12 European Democracy (SEED) legislation, and
13 new programs that may be contemplated.

14 (F) The advocate would seek to assure
15 that United States assistance programs in the
16 area of administration of justice include efforts
17 to redress violations of women's rights.

18 (G) The advocate would work with AID
19 and the appropriate office at the Department of
20 State to secure funding for programs to meet
21 the needs of women victims of human rights
22 abuses including, but not limited to, medical
23 and psychological assistance for rape victims.

24 (H) The advocate would work to assure
25 United States ratification of the United Nations

1 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
2 Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and
3 oversee the preparation of reports pursuant to
4 that Convention.

5 (I) The advocate would seek to upgrade
6 the quality and quantity of information about
7 abuses of women’s human rights in the report-
8 ing from United States embassies overseas, in-
9 corporate that information not only in the State
10 Department Country Reports on Human
11 Rights, but also in other public statements and
12 documents including, but not limited to, con-
13 gressional testimony and private demarches.

14 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

15 (a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
16 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall sub-
17 mit a report to the Congress on the steps taken to create
18 the position described in section 2 or to otherwise fulfill
19 the objectives detailed in that section.

20 (b) UNITED STATES RATIFICATION OF CEDAW.—
21 If the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of
22 All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
23 has not been submitted to the Senate for ratification, not
24 more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this
25 Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the

- 1 Congress on the administration's position on the ratifica-
- 2 tion of CEDAW and timetable for submission of CEDAW
- 3 for congressional consideration and approval.

