

## **Stop the Killing in Syria Act 2020**

- This legislation inspired by the Republican Study Committee's National Security Foreign Affairs Task Force report would be the largest expansion of sanctions proposed by Congress. As first laid out in the RSC report, this legislation would require a mandatory review determining whether officials and businesses of countries with diplomatic or economic relations with the Assad regime or are normalizing with the Assad regime meet criteria for sanctions under Caesar. This would include a mandatory review of government officials in a number of Gulf Cooperation Council states which are normalizing with the Assad regime.
- The legislation would enact new sanctions on Chinese businesses and companies in Syria to support the Assad regime.
- The legislation requires a determination as to whether the Assad regime, Russia, or China, have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria under US law.
- The legislation sanctions Lebanese security forces involved in supporting the Assad regime or involved in the forced repatriation of Syrian refugees.
- As first proposed in the RSC National Security Foreign Affairs strategy, the legislation would update the statement of policy in the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act to explicitly support the Syrian people's movement to remove the Assad regime, more in line with the original language of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act as first proposed. Also, as recommended by the RSC National Security Strategy report, would require a report on the feasibility of a no-fly zone in Syria to protect civilians, as was originally part of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act when introduced in 2016.

- The legislation would require the president to develop a comprehensive strategy dealing with Syria that would support the Syrian people's desire to remove Assad from power and would remove Russia and Iran from the country.
- The legislation would prohibit any future admin to recognize Assad as the President and preventing him from running again
- The legislation would sanction the Syrian financial sector in its entirety which provides critical funding for the Assad regime's war crimes and would sanction foreign financial institutions operating in Syria. It would require a determination into whether areas of Syria under Assad, Russia or Iran's control should be designated as a primary money laundering concern under Section 311 of the PATRIOT Act.
- The legislation would also include provisions from Rep Wilson's previous legislation the Stop UN aid for Assad Act which would prohibit the US from providing taxpayer dollars to UN programs in regime held areas in Syria unless a certification can be met that such assistance is not supporting the Assad regime, Russia or Iran.
- The legislation would require a report of the finances of Bashar Al-Assad and his family, and his close associates to be published publicly online.
- Finally, rather than authorizing foreign assistance, this aid supports the democratic movement of the Syrian people by allowing the President to create Free Syria Economic Zones in areas outside of the Assad regime or terrorist group's control, zones which would allow duty free imports of goods from those regions into the United States and waive the application of sanctions.