

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 588
OFFERED BY MR. SALMON**

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”;

Whereas under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, “No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of his choice”;

Whereas the Participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have undertaken a series of specific commitments designed to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practice religion or belief, including a commitment by those States to ensure the full and effective exercise of the freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief, in their laws and regulations;

Whereas Principle VII of the Helsinki Final Act commits the OSCE Participating States to “recognize and respect the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience”;



Whereas the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document commits the OSCE Participating States to “take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals or communities on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life”;

Whereas in the 1991 Moscow Document, the OSCE Participating States “categorically and irrevocably declare that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension . . . are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned”;

Whereas freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief is inextricably linked to the exercise of other rights, including the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the right to freedom of association with others, and the right to freedom of expression, and the recognition that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law, including in employment;

Whereas the Department of State’s annual reports on religious freedom and human rights have documented numerous instances of government discrimination based on religion or belief in Western Europe, including discriminatory acts against American members of several different religious denominations and beliefs;

Whereas the Office of the United States Trade Representative has listed Germany as a country engaged



in discriminatory procurement practices because of “sect filter” guidelines issued to all federal government ministries and used by German state and local governments, which have the potential to discriminate against United States firms in German procurement decisions by permitting government entities to reject bids and immediately terminate contracts if a firm does not sign a “sect filter” document attesting that the firm and its employees are not affiliated with certain religious beliefs;

Whereas a bill passed by the French National Assembly on June 22, 2000, and under consideration in the French Senate, contains repressive measures which would have a chilling effect on the freedom religion and belief, including the dissolution of targeted religious associations, the imprisonment of members of such groups, and infringement upon freedom of speech, including speech intended to persuade another person to a particular point of view, whether philosophical or religious;

Whereas a 1996 French National Assembly report listed 173 organizations as suspect, including independent evangelical Christian churches, Scientologists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Unificationists and this report has been used by both private and official entities to harass, intimidate, deny employment, and deny commercial loans to listed groups, and members of other religious groups, such as Southern Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement, Opus Dei, and the Society of Jesus, have also been subject to recent discrimination and harassment at the hands of the French Government;



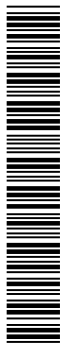
Whereas the Parliament of Austria passed a law in 1997 which requires religious groups seeking government recognition to have been in existence for at least 20 years and to undergo government observation for at least 10 years to prove legitimacy and obtain certain rights from the government;

Whereas the Austrian law on religion is cited as justification for stricter laws being proposed in newer democracies further east, such as Hungary and Romania, and has been cited by Russian officials as justification for an oppressive 1997 Russian religion law;

Whereas the Government of Austria has instituted a “sect” office which disseminates official propaganda on religious groups not recognized by the government and leading to a chilling effect on religious liberty;

Whereas the Parliament of Belgium issued a report in 1997 on “sects” with a widely circulated informal appendix listing 189 groups as suspect, including many Protestant and Catholic groups, Quakers, Hasidic Jews, Buddhists, and members of the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), based on rumor and speculation found in police files, and implicitly warning the public to avoid such “dangerous” groups;

Whereas the Parliament of Belgium has established a government Center for Information and Advice on Harmful Sectarian Organizations which disseminates official views on groups considered “sects” as defined by the list in the appendix to the 1997 Belgian Parliament report;



Whereas some evangelical and charismatic Christian churches have been the subjects of parliamentary investigations in France, Belgium, and Germany;

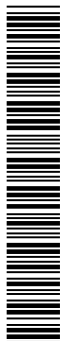
Whereas Jehovah's Witnesses have been subjected in France to various forms of harassment, have been informed by some German state tax authorities that the long-standing exemption from property taxation for their houses of worship may be canceled in the near future, continue to suffer from employment discrimination in Austria, France, and Germany, and have been discriminated against in foster parent proceedings in Germany and in some child custody matters in Belgium;

Whereas Muslims have been subjected to harassment, including attacks by extremist groups, particularly in Germany and France;

Whereas adherents to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have been subject to continued acts of harassment, including confiscation of religious materials, and are prevented from freely sharing their beliefs in several OSCE Participating States;

Whereas Scientologists have been subject to civil, political, and economic discrimination, harassment, surveillance, and orchestrated boycotts in Germany, France, Belgium, and Austria; and

Whereas these actions by Western European governments have contributed to intolerance by public and private actors who have discriminated in hiring practices or terminated employment based on an individual's religious affiliation: Now, therefore, be it



Amend the text after the resolving clause to read as follows:

1 That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) notes with concern the growing intolerance,
3 discrimination, and violence directed against individ-
4 uals and groups because of their religion or belief,
5 in violation of the Helsinki Final Act and other
6 international agreements;

7 (2) expresses concern about the adoption of
8 laws and regulations by Participating States of the
9 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Eu-
10 rope (OSCE) that—

11 (A) discriminate against minority or so-
12 called “nontraditional” religions or beliefs; and

13 (B) limit the freedom of individuals to pro-
14 fess and practice religion or belief, including
15 laws restricting religious speech and assembly;
16 and

17 (3) calls upon the President and the Amba-
18 sador at Large for International Religious Freedom
19 to—

20 (A) raise violations of the freedom of
21 thought, conscience, religion, or belief, at every
22 appropriate level with representatives of coun-
23 tries that have failed to implement their inter-



1 national commitments and obligations in this
2 regard;

3 (B) ensure that the United States makes
4 full use of existing meetings and structures of
5 international organizations, including meetings
6 of the OSCE Permanent Council as well as
7 periodic implementation review meetings on
8 human dimension issues, to raise violations of
9 Participating States' freely undertaken inter-
10 national commitments both to protect and to
11 provide for the full and effective exercise of the
12 freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or be-
13 lief under their respective jurisdictions; and

14 (C) support the inclusion of experts on re-
15 ligious liberty on United States delegations to
16 appropriate meetings of international organiza-
17 tions, including the OSCE.

