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Dear Friends:

I write to you today to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) signed into law in 1998. This landmark piece of legislation elevated the fundamental right that Americans hold dear, the right to worship the God of their choice, to a foreign policy priority.

As we look back on the first twenty-five years of protecting that right under IRFA, it is important to acknowledge the work that has been done and that continues to be done on behalf of worshippers around the globe. Today, we are in a better place because of the IRFA, but that doesn't mean the work is finished. In China, Uyghur Muslims are kidnapped, enslaved, and tortured for worshipping their God. Tragically, antisemitism remains a global issue as we see our longtime friend and ally Israel battling for the very right to exist and is at war with terrorists pursuing the end of the Jewish state.

Religious independence and the right to worship will always be a hotly contested issue across the globe. However, I know that the dedicated public servants at the Commission on International Religious Freedoms stand ready to fight for those freedoms.

God Bless,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress  
GA-01