

# U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



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October 23, 2023

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending tonight's event commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 and the establishment of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Since its establishment 25 years ago, the Commission on International Religious Freedom has championed the ability of people to exercise their rights to freedom of religion or belief. I was proud to vote for the legislation which created the Commission, and I will continue to support the Commission's efforts to draw attention to the worst violators of this fundamental human right.

Tonight's event provides an important opportunity to reflect on the impact the Commission has made on our nation and the international community as a champion of religious freedom. It is also a time to reflect on how the Commission can further elevate its efforts, as we all know that far too many countries continue to restrict or deny these fundamental freedoms. The Commission has been, and will continue to be, a powerful force to protect the rights of those who wish to practice their belief without fear of persecution.

I commend the Commission on International Religious Freedom for its continued leadership and service to the global community. Best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Cardin".

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate