

XIII. Additional Views of Commission Members

Additional Views of Senator James Lankford

I wholeheartedly support the important work of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) in monitoring human rights and rule of law in the People's Republic of China (PRC). This year's Annual Report ("the Report") should be one of the most important to date due to the escalating severity of ongoing issues in the PRC. While, several areas of the Report effectively address the most concerning trends in the PRC, each year the Report expands to cover areas which I believe to be outside the mandate of the CECC. Therefore, I will abstain from voting on this year's Annual Report.

Last year, I reluctantly voted yes on the report and submitted an accompanying statement. It was my hope that the statement would help refocus the CECC on the most egregious human rights abuses happening in the PRC. Unfortunately, this year's Report seems to once again be a platform for arbitrating social and political issues that are contentious in the United States. The Report continues to contain citations of reports by United Nations Treaty Monitoring bodies or Independent Experts, the inclusion of these non-binding reports divert attention away from China's failure to meet its hard-law obligations. The Report, also, continues to identify United States' insistence and PRC cooperation on the adoption of human rights legislation as a solution to changing human rights situations in China but the PRC routinely uses the absence of rule of law to cover up human rights abuses and deny their existence.

Essentially, the scope of the CECC reporting has expanded too far, which jeopardizes its effectiveness. There is no greater threat to the United States and the cause of freedom than the CCP. It is essential that we focus on the most serious and egregious human rights abuses, such as the ongoing genocide, crimes against humanity, eugenics and organ harvesting—to name a few. The CECC should prioritize documenting the CCP's unspeakable crimes against Uyghurs, Tibetans, Falun Gong practitioners, Christians, journalists, defense lawyers, and others who suffer grave abuses for China's forced assimilation policies.

For these reasons, I abstain from voting on this year's Annual Report.