

Advocacy Meeting FAQ

Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2013

Meeting with a Member of Congress or his or her staff member is an important way to make your voice heard. Policy priorities are determined with constituent input, and pressuring your elected officials to support peace in Sudan can have a big impact.

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions that can challenge the legislation, along with some possible responses.

Why is this a priority when there are so many domestic issues with which to deal?

There are many reasons why stability in Sudan should be a priority of the United States. Primarily, the security and prosperity of the U.S. is intricately linked to that of the rest of the world. Atrocities and conflict, even in distant corners of the world, create ripple effects that impact the well-being of Americans and all global citizens. Besides the obvious moral and ethical justifications for acting to stop genocide and mass atrocities, the unstable regions which experience these types of crimes are often a breeding ground for extremist ideologies and terrorist networks. In fact, Sudan was once the host country of Osama bin Laden.

Our shared values compel us to fight injustice wherever it occurs and to reduce the suffering of innocents in addition to the international legal obligations and commitments to act in the face of crimes against humanity. For us to remain a leader in human rights worldwide, we must take action on the urgent humanitarian and ongoing governance crisis in Sudan.

Why doesn't the legislation mention anything on South Sudan?

This bill is specifically focused on addressing the issues and conflict that exists in Sudan. South Sudan is also experiencing significant conflict, but the two countries require two different approaches. The U.S. is currently very much engaged in addressing or looking for solutions related to the South Sudan conflict, and has more direct connections to the South Sudanese Government than the Government of Sudan. However, it lacks a comprehensive vision and strategy for Sudan, and this bill addresses that particular issue.

Is this a bipartisan bill? How many republicans have cosponsored?

The bill was introduced by Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA). It is absolutely a bipartisan bill, as Sudan has, since the Bush Administration, always been a bipartisan issue. Prior to the August recess, the bill had 8 Republican cosponsors (McCaul, Schock, Wolf, Chris Smith, Pitts, Rohrabacher, Meadows, and Wittman). Republicans have historically helped lead the fight for justice and peace in Sudan, but more leadership is needed now in order to move the bill through the Republican-led House of Representatives.

How much will this cost?

It is expected that the committee will formally request that the Congressional Budget Office scores the bill as part of its preparatory work for consideration of the bill as part of the preparatory work before the committee marks up the legislation.