

December 9, 2025

Chairman James E. Risch

Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Urgent Request to Include Nomination of Mark Walker for U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom in the December 11, 2025, Confirmation Hearing

Dear Chairman Risch:

We write to commend your steadfast leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and to respectfully urge you to include President Trump's nominee, former Congressman Mark Walker, for U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, in the nominations hearing scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2025.

As faith leaders and heads of organizations dedicated to supporting persecuted religious communities worldwide—particularly Christians facing escalating threats—we are deeply concerned about the prolonged vacancy in this critical position. Nominated in April 2025, Mr. Walker, a former U.S. Representative and pastor with a proven record of bipartisan advocacy for human rights and religious liberty, is exceptionally qualified to lead the Office of International Religious Freedom. His confirmation would enable immediate progress on President Trump's priorities to defend persecuted Christians and promote freedom of religion or belief for all.

The need for confirmed leadership is particularly acute amid ongoing global crises in religious freedom and the significant restructuring of the U.S. Department of State, including the integration of foreign assistance functions following the closure of USAID. A Senate-confirmed Ambassador-at-Large would provide essential direction and advocacy at this pivotal moment, ensuring effective engagement with foreign governments and robust implementation of U.S. policy under the International Religious Freedom Act.

Including Mr. Walker in the December 11 hearing—the final nominations session of the year—would advance these vital national interests and signal strong congressional support for protecting one of America's foundational freedoms abroad.

Thank you for considering this request. We stand ready to provide any additional information and appreciate your commitment to timely confirmations.

Sincerely,

[Signatories: Faith leaders and organizational heads supporting persecuted Christians globally]

Dede Laugesen
President
Save the Persecuted Christians

Dr. Oluwasayo Ajiboye
President
Mission Africa International

Karmella Borashan
Chair, Office of Advocacy
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Daniel Emig
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Ann Schockett
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Patricia Streeter
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Nadine Maenza
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Faith McDonnell
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Hon. Frank Wolf
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Elizabeth Yore
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