



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

December 10, 2009

S. 1739
Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on November 17, 2009*

S. 1739 would amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require the Department of State to include information relating to violations of freedom of the press in its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. However, each of those country reports already includes a section on respect for civil liberties and a sub-section on respect for “freedom of speech and press.” Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1739 would not affect the federal budget.

S. 1739 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On June 4, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 20, 2009. Section 1109 of that act contains the same reporting requirements as S. 1739, but also would authorize the Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to provide grants to nonprofit and international organizations, with the aim of promoting freedom of the press worldwide. CBO estimated that awarding those grants would cost about \$42 million over the 2010-2014 period. The estimated cost of reporting on violations of freedom of the press is the same for both bills.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is John Chin. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.