

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10
OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subtitle C of title XVIII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 18** ____. **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that the Congress—

3 (1) finds that the August 9, 2020, Presidential
4 election in Belarus was neither free nor fair and,
5 therefore, does not recognize the government-an-
6 nounced results or Alyaksandr Lukashenka as the
7 legitimate President of Belarus;

8 (2) calls for new free and fair elections under
9 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Eu-
10 rope observation;

11 (3) affirms that the people of Belarus have the
12 right to determine the future of Belarus without un-
13 welcome intervention from the Russian Federation
14 or any outside actors in violation of Belarusian inde-
15 pendence and sovereignty;

16 (4) condemns the human rights violations com-
17 mitted by Belarusian authorities, including against
18 peaceful demonstrators, civil society activists, opposi-

1 tion leaders, students, educators, employees at
2 State-owned enterprises, medical personnel, and
3 journalists;

4 (5) calls for the immediate release of all polit-
5 ical prisoners and those unlawfully detained in con-
6 nection with the peaceful demonstrations including
7 independent journalists;

8 (6) recognizes the sacrifices and bravery of the
9 Belarusian people to peacefully demand a free and
10 fair democratic process while enduring the State-
11 sponsored violence that followed the August 9, 2020,
12 election;

13 (7) calls on Alyaksandr Lukashenka and
14 Belarusian authorities to engage in an open and
15 constructive dialogue with the opposition members
16 and other stakeholders to bring about a peaceful
17 transition of power;

18 (8) calls for the protection of civil society actors
19 and members of the opposition against arbitrary ar-
20 rest and violence;

21 (9) recognizes the Coordination Council estab-
22 lished by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya as a legitimate
23 institution to participate in a dialogue on a peaceful
24 transition of power;

1 (10) urges continued cooperation among the
2 United States and its transatlantic allies and part-
3 ners to explore avenues in support of the democratic
4 movement in Belarus;

5 (11) calls for further targeted actions coordi-
6 nated between the United States, the European
7 Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other al-
8 lies and partners against Belarusian authorities who
9 committed human rights violations and engaged in
10 activities that resulted in the falsification of the Au-
11 gust 9, 2020, election results including on individ-
12 uals and entities who violate the fundamental free-
13 dom of the press, are involved in the harassment, as-
14 sault, jailing, or arrest of journalists or their fami-
15 lies as a result of their journalism or otherwise party
16 to or involved in the suppression of a free and open
17 press;

18 (12) calls on the administration to consider the
19 implications of sanctions on Belarusian entities
20 which may further the goals of Russian or Chinese
21 malign actors in Belarus;

22 (13) supports increasing funds available for for-
23 eign assistance to Belarusian civil society groups as
24 well as legal assistance for activists and independent
25 journalists, among others, as called for in the

1 Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty
2 Act of 2020; and

3 (14) continues to support the aspirations of the
4 people of Belarus for democracy, human rights, and
5 the rule of law, and reaffirms that the fulfillment of
6 such aspirations is critical to ensuring the continued
7 strength of Belarusian sovereignty and territorial in-
8 tegrity.

