

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118–36
OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17_. SUPPORT FOR THE MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT**
2 **AND PEOPLE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Over 30 years ago, the Republic of Moldova
5 achieved independence and has since demonstrated a
6 strong commitment to advancing democracy,
7 strengthening civil society, furthering accession to
8 the European Union, and deepening cooperation
9 with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
10 through the Partnership for Peace Program.

11 (2) The United States has encouraged and con-
12 tinues to support the Republic of Moldova’s inde-
13 pendence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and
14 movement toward democracy.

15 (3) The United States Agency for International
16 Development and United States Government assist-
17 ance programs have supported the Republic of
18 Moldova’s democratic aspirations and economic
19 growth since 1992.

1 (4) A joint observation mission from the Orga-
2 nization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
3 (OSCE) Office of Democratic Institutions and
4 Human Rights, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
5 (OSCE PA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Council
6 of Europe, and European Parliament determined the
7 Moldovan parliamentary elections held on July 11,
8 2021, were “competitive and well run” and offered
9 suggestions for further improvements.

10 (5) The Party of Action and Solidarity, led by
11 Maia Sandu, has pledged and begun to implement
12 an anticorruption campaign that includes reforms to
13 the judicial system, campaign finance, justice, and
14 recovery of assets misappropriated by Moldovan offi-
15 cials, and the simplification of the regulatory frame-
16 work for business.

17 (6) On June 23, 2022, the Republic of Moldova
18 received European Union (EU) candidate status, to-
19 gether with Ukraine, and has since worked toward
20 enacting the necessary structural reforms.

21 (7) United States National Security Strategy
22 adopted in October 2022 declares support for the
23 European aspirations of Moldova and its commit-
24 ment to important institutional reforms.

1 (8) The United States supports the promotion
2 of local governance, rule of law, and combating
3 disinformation in Moldova.

4 (9) Russia's brutal, illegal, and full-scale inva-
5 sion of Ukraine has directly threatened the sov-
6 ereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova by de-
7 stabilizing energy security and the economy in the
8 country.

9 (10) More than 8,000,000 refugees have fled
10 Ukraine and, as of February 2023, Moldova has
11 processed over 760,000 cross-border movements
12 from Ukraine as a result of Russia's illegal invasion
13 of Ukraine with more than 100,000 registering as
14 refugees in Moldova.

15 (11) Moldovans have valiantly opened their
16 homes and provided resources to Ukrainian refugees
17 who have fled as a result of Russia's illegal invasion.

18 (12) The Russian Government is engaged in a
19 coordinated disinformation campaign to destabilize
20 the current government and support pro-Russian
21 candidates, political parties, and other pro-Russian
22 elements.

23 (13) Access to energy resources is vital for the
24 success of the Moldovan economy and for the pros-
25 perity of the Moldovan people.

1 (14) Russia has weaponized their energy re-
2 sources with regards to Moldova repeatedly cutting
3 natural gas supplies in order to create an energy cri-
4 sis in the country.

5 (15) Russian military forces and equipment
6 have remained in the Transnistrian region of
7 Moldova since Moldova declared independence in
8 1991.

9 (16) Russian military forces in the
10 Transnistrian region of Moldova represent a direct
11 threat to Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integ-
12 rity.

13 (17) It is the longstanding policy of the United
14 States to not recognize territorial changes that are
15 the result of illegal uses of force.

16 (18) The United States condemns the illegal
17 presence of Russian military forces in the
18 Transnistrian region of Moldova.

19 (19) In February 2023, reports indicate a Rus-
20 sian missile fired at Ukraine crossed over Moldovan
21 sovereign territory, which Moldovan Foreign Min-
22 ister Nicu Popescu called "the unacceptable violation
23 of our airspace".

24 (20) Moldovan Foreign Ministry spokesman
25 called on Russia "to stop the military aggression

1 against [Ukraine] which is causing numerous loss of
2 human lives and material destruction”.

3 (21) Russia continues to threaten Moldova’s
4 sovereignty and territorial integrity through its naval
5 presence in the Black Sea and Russian-occupied Cri-
6 mea, and through repeated firing of rockets over
7 sovereign Moldovan airspace as well as continued oc-
8 cupation of the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

9 (22) Russia’s military activities in the region
10 pose a direct threat to Moldova’s sovereignty and
11 territorial integrity as well as to neighboring North
12 Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members Ro-
13 mania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland.

14 (23) The United States has contributed upward
15 of \$320,000,000 in emergency support to Moldova
16 since February 24, 2022, and the European Union
17 has recently pledged 250,000,000 Euros to help
18 Moldova overcome the economic, energy, security,
19 and humanitarian impacts of the Kremlin’s war of
20 aggression in Ukraine.

21 (24) Most recently Moldovan democracy is ac-
22 tively threatened by Russian malign influence, in-
23 cluding the recent uncovering of a plot by Russian
24 malign forces to use agents provocateurs to attack

1 government buildings under the guise of public pro-
2 tests in an effort to destabilize Moldova.

3 (25) Moldovan President Maia Sandu said Rus-
4 sia’s goal was to change “the legitimate power from
5 Chisinau to an illegitimate one”.

6 (26) Antigovernment demonstrations last year
7 were organized by the pro-Russian Shor Party which
8 President Sandu characterized as “attempts to un-
9 dermine the State”.

10 (27) In October 2022, the United States en-
11 acted economic sanctions on malign, Russian-backed
12 actors in Moldova including Ilan Shor, Vladimir
13 Plahotniuc, and 7 other individuals, as well as 12
14 entities who are “widely recognized for capturing
15 and corrupting Moldova’s political and economic in-
16 stitutions and those acting as instruments of Rus-
17 sia’s global influence campaign”.

18 (28) In the face of Russia’s illegal war in
19 Ukraine, promotion of liberal, democratic values is
20 vital for the preservation, facilitation, and success of
21 democracy in Moldova.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

23 (1) reaffirms the United States commitment to
24 the Republic of Moldova in the face of Russian ma-
25 lign influence and military aggression;

1 (2) lauds the strengthening of civil society, de-
2 mocracy, and democratic institutions in Moldova and
3 encourages the people of Moldova and elected rep-
4 resentatives to continue to enhance their democracy,
5 strengthen the rule of law, and fight corruption;

6 (3) welcomes the strong mandate given to
7 proreform forces by the Moldovan people during the
8 July 2021 Parliamentary elections and the Novem-
9 ber 2020 Presidential election;

10 (4) expresses strong support for Moldova's goal
11 of integration with the Western, democratic commu-
12 nity;

13 (5) supports the Moldovan people's aspirations
14 for membership in the European Union and devel-
15 oping stronger connections to the United States
16 transatlantic partners;

17 (6) urges the European Union to continue to
18 promote Moldova's accession processes to the Euro-
19 pean Union to ensure Moldova's economic and na-
20 tional security;

21 (7) supports the Moldovan people and Govern-
22 ment in their desire to rid the country of corruption
23 and oligarchic control;

24 (8) calls on the Biden administration to work
25 with our transatlantic allies and review further ac-

1 tions against any individuals or groups working to
2 undermine democracy in Moldova;

3 (9) condemns in the strongest possible terms
4 Russian malign activities in Moldova;

5 (10) supports initiatives and productive co-
6 operation within the four working groups under the
7 United States-Moldova Strategic Dialogue as a mean
8 to enhance ties between the two countries;

9 (11) finds that it is in the interest of the
10 United States and its allies to support democratic
11 governance, energy security, and economic growth in
12 Moldova for the advancement of European and glob-
13 al security and prosperity;

14 (12) urges elected officials and policymakers in
15 Moldova to build upon the practices of free and fair
16 elections to further bolster legitimate and equitable
17 election processes in the nation;

18 (13) calls for all personnel and equipment be-
19 longing to Russian security or Armed Forces to be
20 withdrawn from the sovereign territory of Moldova;
21 and

22 (14) continues to support an Organization for
23 Security and Co-operation in Europe-led negotiation
24 process a special status for the Transnistrian region

- 1 within a territorially whole and sovereign Moldova
- 2 within the internationally recognized borders.

