

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118–36**

**OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

At the end of title XVII, add the following:

1 **Subtitle D—Belarus Democracy,**  
2 **Human Rights, and Sovereignty**  
3 **Act of 2024**

4 **SEC. 1751. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This subtitle may be cited as the “Belarus Democ-  
6 racy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 1752. FINDINGS.**

8 Section 2 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
9 (Public Law 108–347; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

12 “Congress finds the following:

13 “(1) The International Covenant on Civil and  
14 Political Rights, done in New York December 19,  
15 1966, was ratified by Belarus in 1973, guaranteeing  
16 Belarusians the freedom of expression and the free-  
17 dom of association.

18 “(2) Alyaksandr Lukashenka has ruled Belarus  
19 as an undemocratic dictatorship since the first presi-  
20 dential election in Belarus in 1994, and subsequent

1 presidential elections have been neither free nor fair,  
2 failing to meet minimal international electoral stand-  
3 ards.

4 “(3) In response to the repression and violence  
5 during the 2006 presidential election, Congress  
6 passed the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act  
7 of 2006 (Public Law 109–480).

8 “(4) In 2006, President George W. Bush issued  
9 Executive Order 13405, titled ‘Blocking Property of  
10 Certain Persons Undermining Democratic Processes  
11 or Institutions in Belarus’, which authorized the im-  
12 position of sanctions against persons responsible  
13 for—

14 “(A) undermining democratic processes in  
15 Belarus; or

16 “(B) participating in human rights abuses  
17 related to political repression in Belarus.

18 “(5) In March 2011, the Senate unanimously  
19 passed Senate Resolution 105, which—

20 “(A) condemned the December 2010 elec-  
21 tion in Belarus as ‘illegitimate, fraudulent, and  
22 not representative of the will or the aspirations  
23 of the voters in Belarus’; and

24 “(B) called on the Lukashenka regime ‘to  
25 immediately and unconditionally release all po-

1           litical prisoners in Belarus who were arrested in  
2           association with the December 19, 2010, elec-  
3           tion’.

4           “(6) The Government of Belarus continues to  
5           engage in a pattern of clear and persistent gross vio-  
6           lations of internationally recognized human rights,  
7           and basic principles of democratic governance.

8           “(7) The Government of Belarus continues to  
9           subject thousands of pro-democracy political activists  
10          and peaceful protesters to harassment, beatings, and  
11          imprisonment, particularly as a result of their at-  
12          tempts to peacefully exercise their right to freedom  
13          of assembly and association.

14          “(8) The Government of Belarus continues to  
15          suppress independent media and journalists and to  
16          restrict access to the internet, including social media  
17          and other digital communication platforms, in viola-  
18          tion of the right to freedom of speech and expression  
19          of those dissenting from the dictatorship of  
20          Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

21          “(9) The Government of Belarus continues a  
22          systematic campaign of harassment, repression, and  
23          closure of nongovernmental organizations, including  
24          independent trade unions and entrepreneurs, cre-

1       ating a climate of fear that inhibits the development  
2       of civil society and social solidarity.

3               “(10) The Government of Belarus has pursued  
4       a policy undermining the country’s sovereignty and  
5       independence by making Belarus political, economic,  
6       cultural, and societal interests subservient to those  
7       of Russia.

8               “(11) The Government of Belarus continues to  
9       reduce the independence of Belarus through integra-  
10      tion into a so-called ‘Union State’ that is under the  
11      control of Russia.

12              “(12) In advance of the August 2020 presi-  
13      dential elections in Belarus, authorities acting on be-  
14      half of President Lukashenka arrested journalists,  
15      bloggers, political activists, and the leading political  
16      opposition candidates, leading to demonstrations in  
17      support of democracy.

18              “(13) On August 9, 2020, the Government of  
19      Belarus conducted a presidential election that was  
20      held under undemocratic conditions, did not meet  
21      international standards, involved government malfea-  
22      sance and serious irregularities with ballot counting  
23      and the reporting of election results, and included  
24      restrictive measures that impeded the work of local  
25      independent observers and did not provide sufficient

1 notice to the Organization for Security and Coopera-  
2 tion in Europe (OSCE) to allow for the OSCE to  
3 monitor the elections, as is customary.

4 “(14) Illegitimate president Alyaksandr  
5 Lukashenka declared a landslide victory in the elec-  
6 tion and claimed to have received more than 80 per-  
7 cent of the votes cast in the election.

8 “(15) The leading opposition candidate,  
9 Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, formally disputed the re-  
10 ported results and was detained by government au-  
11 thorities before being forced into exile in Lithuania.

12 “(16) Later in August, 2020, the United States  
13 Deputy Secretary of State, Stephen Biegun, and Eu-  
14 ropean Union High Representative for Foreign and  
15 Security Policy, Josep Borrell, issued statements de-  
16 claring the Belarus elections to be fraudulent and  
17 neither free nor fair.

18 “(17) Following the illegitimate election results,  
19 tens of thousands of Belarusian protestors took to  
20 the streets, led predominately by women, resulting in  
21 the largest protest rallies in Belarus’ modern his-  
22 tory, with over 1,400 reported as injured by  
23 Belarusian police in August and September 2020,  
24 over 37,000 detained by May 2021, and several  
25 killed for protesting the fraudulent election.

1           “(18) The Government of Belarus has consist-  
2           ently restricted the free flow of information to si-  
3           lence the opposition and to conceal the regime’s vio-  
4           lent crackdown on peaceful protestors, including  
5           through the suppression of independent media and  
6           journalists, and disruption of free internet access.

7           “(19) After the employees of state media out-  
8           lets walked off the job in protest rather than help  
9           report misleading government propaganda,  
10          Lukashenka confirmed that he ‘asked the Russians’  
11          to send teams of Russian journalists to replace local  
12          employees.

13          “(20) Following Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s Sep-  
14          tember 23, 2020, inauguration, the United States,  
15          the European Union, numerous European states, the  
16          United Kingdom, and Canada announced that they  
17          cannot consider Mr. Lukashenka as the legitimately  
18          elected leader of Belarus.

19          “(21) As a result of the Lukashenka regime’s  
20          violence against the Belarusian people and depriva-  
21          tion of their fundamental rights, the United States  
22          Congress passed and the President signed into law  
23          the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sov-  
24          ereignty Act of 2020 to demand the rights of the

1 Belarusian people be respected and to hold account-  
2 able those who undermine them.

3 “(22) As a result of the Lukashenka regime’s  
4 violence against its own people, in December 2020,  
5 Members of Congress and transatlantic parliamen-  
6 tarians wrote a letter to the International Ice Hock-  
7 ey Federation President demanding the Champion-  
8 ship be relocated from Belarus.

9 “(23) In response to the Government of  
10 Belarus’ repressive actions following the 2020 elec-  
11 tion, the United States, along with the European  
12 Union, imposed various sanctions packages on indi-  
13 viduals and entities involved with the suppression of  
14 democracy in Belarus, including—

15 “(A) the Central Election Commission of  
16 the Republic of Belarus and officials deter-  
17 mined to be responsible for undermining democ-  
18 racy in Belarus;

19 “(B) entities and persons determined to be  
20 involved in the violent suppression of protestors,  
21 such as the Minsk Special Purpose Police Unit,  
22 the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of the  
23 Minsk City Executive Committee, and KGB  
24 Alpha; and

1           “(C) state-owned enterprises that provide  
2           revenue to support Lukashenka’s authoritarian  
3           regime.

4           “(24) In April 2021, the House of Representa-  
5           tives passed House Resolution124 reaffirming that  
6           the August 2020 elections were neither free nor fair  
7           and that the House of Representatives does not rec-  
8           ognize Alyaksandr Lukashenka as Belarus’ legiti-  
9           mate president.

10          “(25) On May 23, 2021, the Government of  
11          Belarus forced Ryanair Flight 4978 to land in  
12          Belarus as it neared the border of Lithuania after  
13          calling in a false bomb report and subsequently ar-  
14          rested independent Belarusian opposition blogger  
15          and political activist Raman Pratasevich and his  
16          girlfriend, threatening the safety of every passenger  
17          aboard the civilian flight, and ultimately detaining  
18          Pratasevich as a political prisoner.

19          “(26) In May 2021, the European Union  
20          pledged a comprehensive plan of economic support  
21          worth up to 3 billion euros to assist in the develop-  
22          ment of a future, democratic Belarus following a  
23          democratic transition.

24          “(27) As of April 2024, the Government of  
25          Belarus, led illegally by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, un-



1 lawfully holds nearly 1,400 people as political pris-  
2 oners, including dozens of journalists such as Ihar  
3 Losik and Andrey Kuznechyk from Radio Free Eu-  
4 rope/Radio Liberty.

5 “(28) The Government of Belarus, led illegally  
6 by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, has consistently  
7 weaponized migrants and asylum seekers by trans-  
8 porting them to Belarus’ borders with the NATO  
9 and European Union countries of Latvia, Lithuania,  
10 and Poland in an attempt to destabilize each country  
11 by creating diplomatic border crises, and in violation  
12 of the migrant and asylum seekers’ human rights.

13 “(29) The Government of Belarus has been  
14 complicit in Russia’s illegal and full-scale invasion of  
15 Ukraine.

16 “(30) In advance of Russia’s unprovoked war of  
17 aggression against Ukraine, Alyaksandr Lukashenka  
18 opened Belarus’ borders to the Russian military,  
19 serving as a staging area, providing bases for train-  
20 ing and for launching air strikes and invasion forces,  
21 and providing logistical support to the Russian inva-  
22 sion force which attacked Ukraine in February  
23 2022.

24 “(31) In February 2022, just days after Rus-  
25 sia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, Alyaksandr

1 Lukashenka held a constitutional referendum de-  
2 scribed by the Department of State as ‘not free or  
3 fair’ which, among other provisions, would endow  
4 Lukashenka with lifetime immunity from prosecu-  
5 tion for his crimes, allow Russian nuclear weapons  
6 to be stationed on the territory of Belarus, and for-  
7 mally revoke Belarus’ status as a neutral nation.

8 “(32) Since the start of Russia’s brutal and  
9 unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine, the Gov-  
10 ernment of Belarus has consistently worked to fur-  
11 ther the so-called ‘Union State’ with the Russian  
12 Federation and deepen joint military and economic  
13 ties to support Russia’s war effort.

14 “(33) Throughout Russia’s brutal and  
15 unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine, the Gov-  
16 ernment of Belarus has participated in the abduc-  
17 tion and illegal deportation of Ukrainian civilians  
18 from territory occupied by the Russian Federation,  
19 including thousands of children sent to facilities in  
20 Belarus for ‘re-education’ as detailed in a November  
21 2023 report by the Yale University Humanitarian  
22 Research Lab’s Conflict Observatory.

23 “(34) The now-suspended Belarusian branch of  
24 the Red Cross has publicly confirmed its involvement  
25 in transferring children from Ukraine to the terri-

1 tory of Belarus, and the illegitimate leader of the  
2 Government of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenka,  
3 has publicly confirmed that he permitted these  
4 transfers.

5 “(35) In Spring 2023, the Government of  
6 Belarus announced plans for the deployment of nu-  
7 clear weapons from the Russian Federation to the  
8 territory of Belarus, which reportedly began in the  
9 summer of this same year.

10 “(36) The Government of Belarus has harbored  
11 the Wagner Group, a private military company the  
12 United States has designated as a Transnational  
13 Criminal Organization, and provided facilities, re-  
14 sources, and a staging ground for the group’s crimi-  
15 nal operations.

16 “(37) The Government of Belarus has report-  
17 edly provided the Government of the Russian Fed-  
18 eration with tens of thousands of tons of ammuni-  
19 tion throughout Russia’s unprovoked war of aggres-  
20 sion in Ukraine.

21 “(38) As a result of the Government of  
22 Belarus’ support to the Russian Federation during  
23 its unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine,  
24 the United States, the European Union, and the  
25 United Kingdom have repeatedly issued further

1 sanctions packages against the Lukashenka regime  
2 to target Belarusian military officers as well as indi-  
3 viduals in the military sector, restrictions on entities  
4 in Belarus' defense and industrial sectors, and enti-  
5 ties that provide support to Belarus' military and in-  
6 dustrial sectors.

7 “(39) The Government of Belarus is reportedly  
8 engaging in the purchase of significant amount of  
9 military equipment from the sanctioned Islamic Re-  
10 public of Iran.

11 “(40) On August 6, 2023, the Belarusian  
12 democratic opposition issued a declaration express-  
13 ing their objective of developing democracy in  
14 Belarus and pursuing membership in the European  
15 Union and, by extension, joining the Trans-Atlantic  
16 community.

17 “(41) The democratic opposition of Belarus  
18 have called on the Government of Belarus, led ille-  
19 gally by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, to end its com-  
20 plicity and involvement in the war in Ukraine, and  
21 urged against the conscription of men into the  
22 Belarusian military.

23 “(42) On February 28, 2022, the Department  
24 of State ordered the departure of United States Gov-

1       ernment employees and the suspension of operations  
2       of the United States Embassy in Minsk.

3               “(43) On August 21, 2023, the United States  
4       Government directed all United States citizens to  
5       leave Belarus immediately due to the illegitimate  
6       Belarusian authorities’ continued cooperation with  
7       the Russian military and facilitation of Russia’s  
8       unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, and  
9       the risk of detention and arbitrary enforcement of  
10      local laws against United States citizens.

11              “(44) In September 2023, the Government of  
12      Belarus deprived Belarusians living abroad of their  
13      ability to renew their passports through Belarusian  
14      embassies in an attempt to make life difficult for  
15      and to force exiles, critics, and expats to return to  
16      Belarus for document renewal and possibly face per-  
17      secution.

18              “(45) In December 2023, the United States  
19      Government held a Strategic Dialogue with the  
20      Belarusian democratic opposition and civil society  
21      and subsequently announced a continuation of ef-  
22      forts to hold Alyaksandr Lukashenka and his regime  
23      accountable for their crimes, a commitment to sup-  
24      porting Belarusian culture, sovereignty, and national

1 identity, as well as the need for future working  
2 groups with the democratic opposition.”.

3 **SEC. 1753. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 Section 3 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
5 (Public Law 108–347; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

8 “It is the policy of the United States—

9 “(1) to condemn—

10 “(A) the conduct of the August 9, 2020,  
11 presidential election in Belarus, which was nei-  
12 ther free nor fair;

13 “(B) the Belarusian authorities’ unrelent-  
14 ing crackdown on, arbitrary arrests of, and vio-  
15 lence against opposition candidates, democratic  
16 opposition, peaceful protestors, human rights  
17 activists, employees from state-owned enter-  
18 prises participating in strikes, independent elec-  
19 tion observers, and independent journalists and  
20 bloggers; and

21 “(C) the unjustified detention and forced  
22 or attempted deportation of members of the Co-  
23 ordination Council and United Transitional  
24 Cabinet in Belarus;

1           “(2) to condemn the illegitimate Belarusian au-  
2           thorities’ allowance of Russian nuclear weapons to  
3           be deployed to Belarusian territory, their continued  
4           political and material support for Russia’s  
5           unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine, and their  
6           continued participation in abducting and deporting  
7           Ukrainian children from territory occupied by the  
8           Russian Federation to the territory of Belarus;

9           “(3) to condemn the presence of Russian forces  
10          on Belarusian territory and demand the cessation of  
11          the use of Belarusian territory by Russian forces as  
12          a staging ground for Russia’s illegal, full-scale war  
13          of aggression against Ukraine or for the prevention  
14          of a peaceful democratic transition in Belarus;

15          “(4) to demand accountability for the illegal  
16          Lukashenka regime’s complicity in the crime of ag-  
17          gression against Ukraine through international jus-  
18          tice mechanisms;

19          “(5) to condemn the weaponization of migrants  
20          wherein the Government of Belarus, led illegally by  
21          Alyaksandr Lukashenka, has sent thousands of mi-  
22          grants to the borders of Poland and Lithuania in an  
23          attempt to destabilize the border region;

24          “(6) to continue demanding the immediate re-  
25          lease without preconditions of all political prisoners

1 in Belarus and those arrested for peacefully pro-  
2 testing, including all those individuals detained in  
3 connection with the August 9, 2020, fraudulent  
4 presidential election;

5 “(7) to stand in solidarity with the people of  
6 Belarus, including human rights defenders, bloggers,  
7 and journalists, who are exercising their right to  
8 freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and rule  
9 of law and to continue supporting the aspirations of  
10 the people of Belarus for democracy, human rights,  
11 and the rule of law;

12 “(8) to continue actively supporting the aspira-  
13 tions of the people of the Republic of Belarus to pre-  
14 serve the independence and sovereignty of their  
15 country;

16 “(9) to continue refusing to recognize  
17 Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s illegitimate regime and to  
18 continue supporting calls for Belarusian presidential  
19 and parliamentary elections to be conducted in a  
20 manner that is free and fair according to Organiza-  
21 tion for Security and Cooperation in Europe  
22 (OSCE) standards and under the supervision of  
23 OSCE observers and independent domestic observ-  
24 ers, including in the 2025 presidential elections;



1           “(10) to continue calling for the Government of  
2 Belarus to fulfill its freely undertaken obligations as  
3 an OSCE participating state and as a signatory of  
4 the Charter of the United Nations;

5           “(11) to recognize the Coordination Council  
6 and the United Transitional Cabinet as legitimate  
7 institutions to participate in a dialogue on a peaceful  
8 transition of power, and to support these institutions  
9 prior to and during such a transition should it take  
10 place;

11           “(12) to condemn the deprivation of consular  
12 services to Belarusian citizens living abroad, includ-  
13 ing representatives of the Belarusian democratic op-  
14 position, and urge the United States to raise this to  
15 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refu-  
16 gees, the International Organization for Migration,  
17 the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Se-  
18 curity and Cooperation in Europe;

19           “(13) to encourage the United States Govern-  
20 ment to continue working closely with the European  
21 Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other  
22 countries and international organizations to continue  
23 to impose targeted sanctions against officials in  
24 Belarus who are responsible for—

1           “(A) undermining democratic processes in  
2 Belarus;

3           “(B) participating in gross violations of  
4 internationally recognized human rights related  
5 to political repression in Belarus and under-  
6 mining rule of law for the people of Belarus; or

7           “(C) enabling or facilitating Russia’s war  
8 in Ukraine;

9           “(14) to call on the Government of Belarus to  
10 uphold its human rights obligations, including those  
11 rights enumerated in the International Covenant on  
12 Civil and Political Rights;

13           “(15) to encourage the United States to expedi-  
14 tiously appoint a U.S. Special Envoy for Belarus to  
15 fill the role vacated in June 2022; and

16           “(16) to support the use of the Strategic Dia-  
17 logue between the United States Government as a  
18 means of furthering ties between the United States  
19 Government and the representatives of the demo-  
20 cratic opposition of Belarus in pursuit of objectives,  
21 including—

22           “(A) accountability for the Lukashenka re-  
23 gime’s gross violations of internationally recog-  
24 nized human rights and domestic repressions;

1           “(B) increasing partnerships with the  
2           Belarusian people by supporting investments  
3           such as the United States Agency for Inter-  
4           national Development’s dedicated Belarus  
5           Country Representative Office in Vilnius, Lith-  
6           uania; and

7           “(C) initiating cultural programming dedi-  
8           cated to protecting Belarusian language, cul-  
9           ture, and national identity.”.

10 **SEC. 1754. ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY, CIVIL**  
11 **SOCIETY, AND SOVEREIGNTY IN BELARUS.**

12           Section 4 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
13 (Public Law 108–347 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended—

14           (1) in subsection (a)—

15           (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, the  
16           United Transitional Cabinet, and the Coordina-  
17           tion Council” after “the Republic of Belarus”;  
18           and

19           (B) by adding at the end the following:

20           “(5) To assist in the cessation of Belarus’ sup-  
21           port for the Government of Russia in Russia’s  
22           unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine.”;

23           (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end be-  
24           fore the period the following “, including political  
25           party strengthening”;

1           (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
2           lows:

3           “(c) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities that may  
4 be supported by assistance under subsection (b) include—

5           “(1) expanding independent radio and television  
6           broadcasting to and within Belarus;

7           “(2) facilitating the development of independent  
8           broadcast, print, and internet media working within  
9           Belarus and from locations outside the country and  
10          supported by nonstate-controlled printing facilities;

11          “(3) countering internet censorship and repres-  
12          sive surveillance technology that seek to limit free  
13          association, control access to information, and pre-  
14          vent citizens from exercising their rights to free  
15          speech;

16          “(4) raising awareness both within Belarus and  
17          globally about Lukashenka’s complicity in Russia’s  
18          unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine, including  
19          how the Lukashenka regime is providing support to  
20          the Russian military and committing crimes against  
21          Ukrainian children;

22          “(5) aiding the development of civil society  
23          through assistance to nongovernmental organizations  
24          promoting democracy and supporting human rights,

1 including youth groups, entrepreneurs, and inde-  
2 pendent trade unions;

3 “(6) supporting programming that contributes  
4 to the defense of Belarusian sovereignty and inde-  
5 pendence from encroachment by the Russian Fed-  
6 eration;

7 “(7) supporting the work of human rights de-  
8 fenders;

9 “(8) enhancing the development of democratic  
10 political parties;

11 “(9) assisting the promotion of free, fair, and  
12 transparent electoral processes;

13 “(10) enhancing international exchanges and  
14 advanced professional training programs for leaders  
15 and members of the democratic opposition in skill  
16 areas central to the development of civil society;

17 “(11) supporting the work of women advocating  
18 for freedom, human rights, and human progress in  
19 Belarus given the significant and vital role women  
20 have played in the Belarus democracy movement;

21 “(12) supporting the development of Belarusian  
22 language and cultural education and exchanges to  
23 preserve and protect Belarusian national identity;

24 “(13) supporting further iterations of the Stra-  
25 tegic Dialogue between the United States and the

1 Belarusian democratic opposition and civil society as  
2 a platform to work on issues of mutual concern;

3 “(14) enhancing the development of the private  
4 sector, particularly the information technology sec-  
5 tor, and its role in the economy of Belarus, including  
6 by increasing the capacity of private sector actors,  
7 developing business support organizations, offering  
8 entrepreneurship training, and expanding access to  
9 finance for small and medium enterprises;

10 “(15) supporting political refugees in neigh-  
11 boring European countries fleeing the crackdown in  
12 Belarus;

13 “(16) supporting the education of Belarusians  
14 in exile;

15 “(17) supporting the gathering of evidence on  
16 and investigating of gross violations of internation-  
17 ally recognized human rights in Belarus; and

18 “(18) other activities consistent with the pur-  
19 poses of this Act.”;

20 (4) in subsection (f)—

21 (A) by striking “the Belarus Democracy,  
22 Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020”  
23 and inserting “the Belarus Democracy, Human  
24 Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2024”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end before the period  
2 the following: “as well as the methodology and  
3 benchmarks used to assess the effectiveness of  
4 such funds”; and

5 (5) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-  
6 lows:

7 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry  
9 out this section—

10 “(1) for fiscal year 2025 an amount equal to  
11 not less than the amount made available to carry out  
12 this section for fiscal year 2024; and

13 “(2) for fiscal year 2026 an amount equal to  
14 not less than the amount made available to carry out  
15 this section for fiscal year 2025.”.

16 **SEC. 1755. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, INTERNET**  
17 **FREEDOM, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN**  
18 **BELARUS.**

19 Section 5 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
20 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amend-  
21 ed—

22 (1) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) by striking “(a) SENSE OF CON-  
24 GRESS.—”;

1 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end and inserting the following:  
5 “and advocate for the release of journalists that  
6 are detained by political reasons; and”;

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(6) the United States should also support  
9 independent media outlets and other sources of in-  
10 formation in providing accurate and truthful infor-  
11 mation about Russia’s unprovoked war of aggression  
12 in Ukraine, and the illegitimate Lukashenka re-  
13 gime’s complicity in Russia’s crimes of aggression.”;  
14 and

15 (2) by striking subsection (b)

16 **SEC. 1756. SANCTIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF**  
17 **BELARUS.**

18 Section 6 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
19 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amend-  
20 ed—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “The sanctions” and in-  
23 serting the following:

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions”; and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:



1           “(2) MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING SANC-  
2 TIONS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any sanctions im-  
4 posed pursuant to the Executive orders de-  
5 scribed in subparagraph (B) that were imposed  
6 in connection with conduct relating to, con-  
7 cerning, or occurring in Belarus should remain  
8 in effect until the President determines and cer-  
9 tifies to the appropriate congressional commit-  
10 tees that the Government of Belarus has made  
11 significant progress in meeting the conditions  
12 described in subsection (c).

13           “(B) EXECUTIVE ORDERS DESCRIBED.—  
14 The Executive orders described in this subpara-  
15 graph are the following:

16           “(i) Executive Order 13405 (71 Fed.  
17 Reg. 35485; relating to blocking property  
18 of certain persons undermining democratic  
19 processes or institutions in Belarus).

20           “(ii) Executive Order 14024 (86 Fed.  
21 Reg. 20249; relating to blocking property  
22 with respect to specified harmful foreign  
23 activities of the Government of the Russian  
24 Federation).

1                   “(iii) Executive Order 14038 (86 Fed.  
2                   Reg. 43905; relating to blocking property  
3                   of additional persons contributing to the  
4                   situation in Belarus).”;

5                   (2) in subsection (b)—

6                   (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
7                   by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting  
8                   “paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)”;

9                   (B) by striking paragraph (2);

10                  (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),  
11                  and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respec-  
12                  tively; and

13                  (D) by adding at the end the following:

14                  “(5) The withdrawal of the armed forces of the  
15                  Russian Federation from the Republic of Belarus  
16                  and the cessation of Belarusian support for the Rus-  
17                  sian Federation’s war against Ukraine.

18                  “(6) The return of all Ukrainian children ab-  
19                  ducted and deported to Belarus from the territory of  
20                  Ukraine illegally occupied by the Russian Federa-  
21                  tion.”;

22                  (3) in subsection (c)—

23                  (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
24                  “COMPLICIT IN THE CRACKDOWN THAT OC-

1 CURRED AFTER THE AUGUST 9, 2020, ELEC-  
2 TION”;

3 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
4 by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

5 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “inad-  
6 missible under” and inserting “described in”;

7 (D) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end  
8 before the semicolon the following: “, or future  
9 elections in Belarus should they be determined  
10 to be neither free nor fair”;

11 (E) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end  
12 before the semicolon the following: “, or future  
13 elections in Belarus should they be determined  
14 to be neither free nor fair”;

15 (F) by striking paragraphs (6), (7), (8),  
16 and (9) and inserting the following:

17 “(6) is a government official or member of the  
18 security or law enforcement services of Belarus and  
19 has participated in the persecution or harassment of  
20 religious groups, human rights defenders, democratic  
21 opposition groups, or independent media or journal-  
22 ists;

23 “(7) is an individual determined by the Presi-  
24 dent to be interfering in the internal affairs of the

1 Republic of Belarus on behalf of or at the direction  
2 of the Government of the Russian Federation;

3 “(8) is an official who provides for, facilitates,  
4 or otherwise enables or engages with the abduction  
5 and deportation of Ukrainian children from terri-  
6 tories illegally occupied by the Russian Federation to  
7 the territory of Belarus;

8 “(9) is an official who provides for, facilitates,  
9 or otherwise enables the Russian Federation to use  
10 the territory or Belarus to further its unprovoked in-  
11 vasion of Ukraine;

12 “(10) is an official of the so-called ‘Union  
13 State’ between Russia and Belarus (regardless of  
14 nationality of the individual) or works toward the  
15 furtherance of such Union State; or

16 “(11) is a Russian individual that has signifi-  
17 cantly participated in the crackdown on independent  
18 press or human rights abuses related to political re-  
19 pression in Belarus, including the Russian propa-  
20 gandists sent to replace local employees at  
21 Belarusian state media outlets.”;

22 (4) by amending subsection (f) to read as fol-  
23 lows:

24 “(f) BLOCKING OF ASSETS AND OTHER PROHIBITED  
25 ACTIVITIES.—

1           “(1) MANDATORY SANCTION.—The President  
2           shall impose the sanction described in paragraph (3)  
3           with respect to each foreign person that the Presi-  
4           dent determines—

5                   “(A) is a member of the Central Election  
6           Commission of Belarus or assisted the Commis-  
7           sion in manipulating elections in Belarus in-  
8           cluding the presidential election of August 9,  
9           2020;

10                   “(B) is a government official or member of  
11           the security or law enforcement services of  
12           Belarus and has participated in the persecution  
13           or harassment of religious groups, human  
14           rights defenders, democratic opposition groups,  
15           or independent media or journalists;

16                   “(C) is an individual determined by the  
17           President to be knowingly interfering in the in-  
18           ternal affairs of the Republic of Belarus on be-  
19           half of or at the direction of the Government of  
20           the Russian Federation;

21                   “(D) is an official who knowingly engages  
22           in the abduction and deportation of Ukrainian  
23           children from territories illegally occupied by  
24           the Russian Federation to the territory of  
25           Belarus;

1           “(E) is an official who knowingly supports  
2           and provides for, the Russian Federation’s use  
3           of the territory of Belarus to further its  
4           unprovoked invasion of Ukraine; or

5           “(F) is an official in the so-called ‘Union  
6           State’ between Russia and Belarus (regardless  
7           of nationality of the individual) or works toward  
8           the furtherance of such ‘Union State’.

9           “(2) DISCRETIONARY SANCTION.—The Presi-  
10          dent may impose the sanction described in para-  
11          graph (3) with respect to each foreign person that  
12          the President determines—

13                 “(A) holds a position in the senior leader-  
14                 ship of the Government of Belarus;

15                 “(B) is an immediate family member of a  
16                 person described in subparagraph (A); or

17                 “(C) through his or her business dealings  
18                 with a person described in subparagraph (A)  
19                 derives significant financial benefit from policies  
20                 or actions, including electoral fraud, gross viola-  
21                 tions of internationally recognized human  
22                 rights, or corruption, that undermine or injure  
23                 democratic institutions or impede the transition  
24                 to democracy in Belarus.

1           “(3) SANCTION DESCRIBED.—The President  
2 shall exercise all of the powers granted to the Presi-  
3 dent under the International Emergency Economic  
4 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent  
5 necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in  
6 property and interests in property of the foreign per-  
7 son if such property and interests in property are in  
8 the United States, come within the United States, or  
9 are or come within the possession or control of a  
10 United States person.

11           “(4) EXCEPTIONS.—

12           “(A) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PRO-  
13 VISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—The  
14 sanction described in paragraph (3) may not be  
15 imposed with respect to transactions or the fa-  
16 cilitation of transactions for—

17           “(i) the sale of agricultural commod-  
18 ities, food, medicine, or medical devices;

19           “(ii) the provision of humanitarian as-  
20 sistance;

21           “(iii) financial transactions relating to  
22 humanitarian assistance; or

23           “(iv) transporting goods or services  
24 that are necessary to carry out operations  
25 relating to humanitarian assistance.

1                   “(B) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW  
2                   ENFORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY AC-  
3                   TIVITIES.—The sanction described in paragraph  
4                   (3) shall not apply to any authorized intel-  
5                   ligence, law enforcement, or national security  
6                   activities of the United States.

7                   “(5) WAIVER.—The President may, on a case-  
8                   by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 180 days  
9                   each, waive the application of the sanction described  
10                  in paragraph (3) imposed with respect to a foreign  
11                  person under this subsection if the President cer-  
12                  tifies to the appropriate congressional committees  
13                  not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take  
14                  effect that the waiver is important to the national  
15                  security interests of the United States.

16                  “(6) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates, at-  
17                  tempts to violate, or causes a violation of this sub-  
18                  section or any regulation, license, or order issued to  
19                  carry out this subsection shall be subject to the pen-  
20                  alties under section 206 of the International Emer-  
21                  gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the  
22                  same extent as a person that commits an unlawful  
23                  act under that Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

24                  “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—



1           “(A) the term ‘air carrier’ has the meaning  
2           given that term in section 40102 of title 49,  
3           United States Code;

4           “(B) the term ‘foreign person’ means a  
5           person that is not a United States person; and

6           “(C) the term ‘United States person’  
7           means—

8                   “(i) any United States citizen or alien  
9                   admitted for permanent residence to the  
10                  United States;

11                   “(ii) any entity organized under the  
12                  laws of the United States; and

13                   “(iii) any person in the United  
14                  States.”.

15 **SEC. 1757. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.**

16           Section 7 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
17 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended—

18           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the  
19           end;

20           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at  
21           the end and inserting “; and”; and

22           (3) by adding at the end the following:

23                   “(3) to halt the Government of Belarus, led ille-  
24                   gally by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, from supporting  
25                   and assisting the Russian Federation’s unprovoked

1 war of aggression against Ukraine including the ab-  
2 duction and deportation of Ukrainian children.”.

3 **SEC. 1758. REPORTS.**

4 Section 8 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
5 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) by striking subsection (a);

8 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
9 section (a);

10 (3) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
13 graph (A), by striking “the Belarus De-  
14 mocracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty  
15 Act of 2020” and inserting “the Belarus  
16 Democracy, Human Rights, and Sov-  
17 ereignty Act of 2024”; and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at  
19 the end before the period the following: “,  
20 and whether the United States has im-  
21 posed sanctions with respect to such senior  
22 foreign political figures”;

23 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

24 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
25 paragraph (2); and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(b) REPORT ON CRIMES AND OTHER ACTIONS COM-  
3 MITTED BY BELARUS IN SUPPORT OF RUSSIA’S  
4 UNPROVOKED WAR OF AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
6 after the date of the enactment of the Belarus De-  
7 mocracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of  
8 2024, the Director of National Intelligence, in con-  
9 sultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the  
10 Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate  
11 congressional committees a report on the following:

12 “(A) An assessment of the Russian mili-  
13 tary presence in Belarus, including the presence  
14 of Russian nuclear forces, and the impact this  
15 presence has on North Atlantic Treaty Organi-  
16 zation (NATO) security.

17 “(B) The degree to which the Government  
18 of Belarus, led illegally by Alyaksandr  
19 Lukashenka, continues to provide support to  
20 and harbor the forces of the Wagner Group or  
21 other Russian paramilitary groups and enables  
22 their destabilizing actions on the borders of  
23 NATO allies, such as Latvia, Lithuania, and  
24 Poland.

1           “(C) Which actors in the Government of  
2           Belarus, led illegally by Alyaksandr  
3           Lukashenka, are most responsible for the illegal  
4           abduction and deportation of Ukrainian chil-  
5           dren from Ukrainian territory occupied by the  
6           Russian Federation to the territory of Belarus,  
7           as well as to what extent organizations such as  
8           the now-suspended Belarus branch of the Red  
9           Cross are involved in these transfers, and pro-  
10          vide a strategy for holding those involved in  
11          these crimes accountable including through the  
12          use of sanctions.

13          “(D) The degree to which the Government  
14          of Belarus, led illegally by Alyaksandr  
15          Lukashenka has purchased weapons from the  
16          governments of the Russian Federation and the  
17          Islamic Republic of Iran, and whether any pur-  
18          chases of such weapons violate the provisions of  
19          section 107 or 231 of the Countering America’s  
20          Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C.  
21          9406 or 9525).

22          “(E) The extent to which the Government  
23          of Belarus, led illegally by Alyaksandr  
24          Lukashenka, is aiding the Russian Federation  
25          is circumventing export controls and evading

1 sanctions, including with an accounting and es-  
2 timated value of dual-use goods and an identi-  
3 fication of the officials or other persons involved  
4 in facilitating this sanctions evasion.

5 “(F) The impact of the Government of  
6 Belarus’s use of illegal migrants to destabilize  
7 the borders of NATO countries, such as Latvia,  
8 Lithuania, and Poland, on NATO security.

9 “(2) FORM.—The report required under this  
10 subsection shall be transmitted in unclassified form,  
11 but may contain a classified annex.”.

12 **SEC. 1759. DEFINITIONS.**

13 Section 9 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
14 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amend-  
15 ed—

16 (1) in paragraph (3)(A), by adding at the end  
17 before the semicolon the following: “, led illegally by  
18 Alyaksandr Lukashenka”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(4) UNION STATE.—The term ‘Union State’  
21 means the supranational union of the Republic of  
22 Belarus and the Russian Federation as outlined in  
23 the December 1999 Treaty on the establishment of

1 the Union State between the governments of the Re-  
2 public of Belarus and the Russian Federation.”.

