

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118–36**  
**OFFERED BY MS. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ OF**  
**FLORIDA**

At the end of title XIII, add the following new sub-  
title:

1                   **Subtitle D—VOICE Act**

2   **SEC. 13\_\_\_. SHORT TITLE.**

3           This Act may be cited as the “Venezuelans Over-  
4 coming Interference and Corruption in Elections Act” or  
5 the “VOICE Act”.

6   **SEC. 13\_\_\_. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7           It is the sense of Congress that—

8                   (1) the arbitrary and unconstitutional actions of  
9           the Maduro regime to undermine Venezuelan democ-  
10          racy, including attempts to disqualify opposition can-  
11          didates from participating in the 2024 presidential  
12          election, demonstrate flagrant disregard for the  
13          basic political rights of Venezuelans and merit con-  
14          demnation in the strongest terms from the United  
15          States and other Western Hemisphere democracies;

16                   (2) the disqualification of political opponents il-  
17          lustrates the Maduro regime’s intent to continue to  
18          remove checks and balances on the executive, politi-

1 cize the judiciary, undermine the independence of  
2 the legislature through use of executive decree pow-  
3 ers, persecute and prosecute its political opponents,  
4 curtail freedom of the press, and limit the free ex-  
5 pression of its citizens;

6 (3) the United States supports the people of  
7 Venezuela in their efforts to advance representative  
8 democracy, human rights, and the rule of law within  
9 their country; and

10 (4) the United States should make every pos-  
11 sible effort to promote international recognition of  
12 the legitimacy of the presidential primary organized  
13 by the democratic Unitary Platform, and to support  
14 the registration and participation of Venezuelan mi-  
15 grants and refugees residing in the United States in  
16 the election.

17 **SEC. 13\_. SANCTIONS FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATING**  
18 **TO DISQUALIFICATION OF VENEZUELAN**  
19 **PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the  
21 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any  
22 foreign person, including any current or former official of  
23 the Government of Venezuela or any person acting on be-  
24 half of that Government, that the President determines—

1           (1) has prevented, or is responsible for ordering  
2           or otherwise directing the prevention of, any indi-  
3           vidual that the President determines to be an oppo-  
4           nent candidate, or prospective opponent candidate,  
5           seeking presidential election (including María Corina  
6           Machado, Henrique Capriles, and Freddy Superlano)  
7           from participating in the 2024 Venezuelan presi-  
8           dential election; or

9           (2) has knowingly materially assisted, spon-  
10          sored, or provided significant financial, material, or  
11          technological support for, or goods or services in  
12          support of, the commission of the acts described in  
13          paragraph (1).

14          (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in  
16          this subsection are the following:

17           (A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all  
18          powers granted to the President by the Inter-  
19          national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
20          U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to  
21          block and prohibit all transactions in all prop-  
22          erty and interests in property of a person deter-  
23          mined by the President to be subject to sub-  
24          section (a) if such property and interests in  
25          property are in the United States, come within

1           the United States, or are or come within the  
2           possession or control of a United States person.

3           (B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED  
4           STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER  
5           DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien de-  
6           termined by the President to be subject to sub-  
7           section (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion  
8           from the United States of, the alien, and rev-  
9           ocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the  
10          Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
11          1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of  
12          the alien.

13          (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-  
14          tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
15          violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, li-  
16          cense, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A)  
17          shall be subject to the penalties set forth in sub-  
18          sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-  
19          national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
20          U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that  
21          commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a)  
22          of that section.

23          (3) EXCEPTIONS.—The sanctions described in  
24          paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a for-  
25          eign person—

1 (A) that the President determines is the  
2 subject of other sanctions equivalent to those  
3 described in paragraph (1); or

4 (B) that is an alien, if admitting the alien  
5 into the United States is necessary to permit  
6 the United States to comply with the Agree-  
7 ment regarding the Headquarters of the United  
8 Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,  
9 1947, and entered into force November 21,  
10 1947, between the United Nations and the  
11 United States, or other applicable international  
12 obligations.

13 (c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-  
14 tion of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a  
15 foreign person if the President—

16 (1) determines that such a waiver is in the na-  
17 tional interest of the United States; and

18 (2) on or before the date on which the waiver  
19 takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign  
20 Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of  
21 the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
22 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
23 of Representatives a notice of and justification for  
24 the waiver.

1 (d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall  
2 issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are nec-  
3 essary to carry out this section.

4 (e) DEFINITION.—In this section:

5 (1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted”  
6 and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in  
7 section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
8 (8 U.S.C. 1101).

9 (2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
10 son” means a person that is not a United States  
11 person.

12 (3) GOOD.—The term “good” has the meaning  
13 given that term in section 16 of the Export Adminis-  
14 tration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as con-  
15 tinued in effect pursuant to the International Emer-  
16 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et  
17 seq.)).

18 (4) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with  
19 respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result,  
20 means that a person has actual knowledge, or should  
21 have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the  
22 result.

23 (5) MATERIALLY ASSISTED.—The term “mate-  
24 rially assisted” means the provision of assistance  
25 that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to

1 acts described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of sub-  
2 section (a).

3 (6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
4 “United States person” means—

5 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-  
6 fully admitted for permanent residence to the  
7 United States; or

8 (B) an entity organized under the laws of  
9 the United States or of any jurisdiction within  
10 the United States, including a foreign branch of  
11 such an entity.

12 **SEC. 13\_\_ . INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION ON BEHALF OF**  
13 **VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY.**

14 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
15 gress that the United States should engage with the Gov-  
16 ernment of Canada, the European Union, the governments  
17 of other European countries, and the democratically elect-  
18 ed governments of countries in Latin America and the  
19 Caribbean to enhance diplomatic cooperation and policy  
20 coordination toward the shared objective of restoring de-  
21 mocracy for the Venezuelan people.

22 (b) INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Presi-  
23 dent, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall di-  
24 rect the appropriate officials of the United States Govern-

1 ment to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United  
2 States at international organizations to—

3 (1) urge the Organization of American States  
4 and the United Nations, as well as any subordinate  
5 entities of either organization responsible for pro-  
6 moting democracy, to support the mission of the  
7 independent Venezuelan primary organizing commis-  
8 sion by—

9 (A) assisting efforts to register eligible  
10 Venezuelan nationals residing in third countries  
11 to vote in future elections in Venezuela;

12 (B) ensuring the integrity and security of  
13 personal identifying information collected from  
14 Venezuelan nationals residing in other coun-  
15 tries;

16 (C) facilitating the delivery by nongovern-  
17 mental organizations of humanitarian assist-  
18 ance and other critical services to the Ven-  
19 ezuelan people, who may be subject to increas-  
20 ingly restrictive policies in advance of the 2024  
21 election;

22 (D) dispatching independent election ob-  
23 servers to conduct oversight of the handling of  
24 the 2024 Venezuelan presidential election by  
25 the Maduro regime; and



1 (E) documenting and reporting on at-  
2 tempts by the Maduro regime to suppress the  
3 vote through threats, intimidation, violence,  
4 blackmail, or extortion;

5 (2) encourage international organizations to  
6 condemn the practice of the Maduro regime of dis-  
7 qualifying political opponents; and

8 (3) commend the efforts of the Venezuelan  
9 democratic opposition to organize a free, fair, and  
10 transparent election in 2024 and provide an electoral  
11 alternative to the Maduro regime, which has com-  
12 mitted crimes against humanity as evidenced by the  
13 Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on  
14 the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela established by  
15 the United Nations Human Rights Council, in the  
16 report of such mission published in October 2022.

17 **SEC. 13. ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF DEMOC-**  
18 **RACY IN VENEZUELA.**

19 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
20 gress that a solution of the political and humanitarian cri-  
21 sis in Venezuela must include—

22 (1) a new presidential election in Venezuela  
23 that complies with international standards for a free,  
24 fair, and transparent electoral process;

1           (2) an end to the usurpation of presidential au-  
2           thorities by Nicolás Maduro;

3           (3) the restoration of democracy and the rule of  
4           law in Venezuela;

5           (4) freeing political prisoners in Venezuela;

6           (5) consistent and unhindered delivery of hu-  
7           manitarian aid to Venezuelans; and

8           (6) accountability for the perpetrators of acts  
9           determined to be crimes against humanity by the  
10          Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on  
11          the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela established by  
12          the United Nations Human Rights Council.

13          (b) SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.—Not later than 90  
14          days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Presi-  
15          dent, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall ap-  
16          point a Special Representative for Venezuela from among  
17          the officers and employees of the Department of State,  
18          who shall assume primary responsibility for the following:

19                (1) Coordinating initiatives across the United  
20                States Government to assist in streamlining United  
21                States policy toward Venezuela and ensuring prompt  
22                response to any changing political, economic, and  
23                humanitarian dynamics in Venezuela.

24                (2) Supporting the Venezuela Affairs Unit in  
25                delivering information to Federal departments and

1 agencies responsible for developing and imple-  
2 menting United States policy toward Venezuela.

3 (3) Assisting the Venezuela Affairs Unit, the  
4 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services,  
5 and other Federal departments and agencies respon-  
6 sible for the administration of consular affairs in  
7 providing consular services to United States citizens  
8 in Venezuela and Venezuelans residing in the United  
9 States or in third countries.

10 (4) Facilitating the participation of members of  
11 the Venezuelan diaspora residing in the United  
12 States in Venezuelan elections determined by the  
13 President to be free and fair with the uninhibited  
14 participation of opposition candidates.

15 (5) Providing the appropriate congressional  
16 committees with briefs on the status of democracy  
17 and human rights in Venezuela.

18 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days  
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
20 of State, the Administrator for the United States Agency  
21 for International Development, and the Chief Executive  
22 Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media,  
23 shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
24 mittees a report on obstacles to promoting independent

1 news media and free access to information in Venezuela.

2 Such report shall include—

3 (1) an evaluation of the governmental, political,  
4 and technological obstacles faced by the people of  
5 Venezuela in their efforts to obtain accurate, objec-  
6 tive, and comprehensive news and information about  
7 domestic and international affairs;

8 (2) a list of all television channels, radio sta-  
9 tions, online news sites, and other media platforms  
10 operating in Venezuela that are directly or indirectly  
11 owned or beneficially controlled by Nicolás Maduro,  
12 members of the Maduro family, or individuals associ-  
13 ated with his regime, and the extent of the oper-  
14 ational scale and reach of any such platforms;

15 (3) a list of all television channels, radio sta-  
16 tions, online news sites, and other media platforms  
17 operating in Venezuela that are directly or indirectly  
18 owned or beneficially controlled by individuals or en-  
19 tities associated with the Russian Federation, the  
20 Chinese Communist Party, the Islamic Republic of  
21 Iran, the Ortega regime in Nicaragua, or the Com-  
22 munist government of Cuba, and the operational  
23 scale and reach of any such platforms;

24 (4) a list of any independent press organization,  
25 or person affiliated with such an organization, that

1 has experienced intimidation, harassment, physical  
2 assault, theft of property, or fatal injury by agents  
3 of the Maduro regime or pro-government supporters  
4 in direct relation to their journalistic activities since  
5 April 2013;

6 (5) an assessment of the extent to which the  
7 current level and type of news and related program-  
8 ming and content provided by the Voice of America  
9 and other sources is addressing the informational  
10 needs of the people of Venezuela;

11 (6) a description of existing United States ef-  
12 forts to strengthen freedom of the press and freedom  
13 of expression in Venezuela, including recommenda-  
14 tions to expand upon those efforts; and

15 (7) a proposed strategy for strengthening inde-  
16 pendent broadcasting, information distribution, and  
17 media platforms in Venezuela.

18 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
19 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-  
20 gressional committees” means—

21 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
22 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
23 resentatives; and

- 1 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
- 2 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

