

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. _____
OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protect Democracy in
3 Burma Act of 2021”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) On March 14, 2005, the House of Rep-
7 representatives agreed to H. Res. 135, which estab-
8 lished the House Democracy Assistance Commission
9 (later changed to the House Democracy Partnership,
10 hereafter referred to as “HDP”) to work directly
11 with parliaments around the world to support the
12 development of effective, independent, and respon-
13 sive legislative institutions.

14 (2) HDP approved a legislative strengthening
15 partnership with Burma in 2016 and organized the
16 first congressional delegation to meet with the new
17 civilian-led government, led by State Counselor Aung
18 San Suu Kyi, and civil society leaders in May 2016.

1 (3) On February 2, 2021, the U.S. Department
2 of State assessed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the
3 leader of Burma's ruling party, and President Win
4 Myint, the duly elected head of government, were de-
5 posed in a military coup on February 1, 2021.

6 (4) As part of the military coup, the Burmese
7 military declared martial law, suspended the civilian-
8 led government, and detained newly elected Members
9 of Parliament in the capitol, Naypyidaw, thereby
10 usurping the role of the democratically elected gov-
11 ernment and parliament.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) due to the Burmese military's seizure of
15 government through the detention of State Coun-
16 sellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and
17 other government leaders, Burma is not represented
18 by a democratically-elected government;

19 (2) the inability of newly elected Members of
20 Parliament to begin their official mandate due to the
21 Burmese military's actions directly threatens the
22 democratic trajectory of Burma's Parliament, and
23 thereby the country;

24 (3) the will and determination of those duly-
25 elected Members of Parliament who are taking it

1 upon themselves to continue serving as representa-
2 tives of the people through alternative methods of
3 communicating and convening should be lauded; and

4 (4) by preventing the Parliament from com-
5 pleting its work, the Burmese military has rendered
6 impossible and effectively nullified the international
7 collaborative relationships that have supported and
8 strengthened the institution, including the Burmese
9 parliament's partnership with HDP.

10 **SEC. 4. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING BUR-**
11 **MA'S DEMOCRACY.**

12 It is the policy of the United States to—

13 (1) condemn the military coup in Burma, to
14 urge the unconditional release of detained democrat-
15 ically-elected leaders and civil society members, and
16 to support a return to Burma's democratic transi-
17 tion;

18 (2) instruct, as appropriate, representatives of
19 the United States Government to use the voice, vote,
20 and influence of the United States at the United
21 Nations to hold accountable those responsible for the
22 military coup in Burma; and

23 (3) engage with the Association of Southeast
24 Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN member
25 states to promote a return to Burma's democratic

1 transition and democratic values throughout South-
2 east Asia, and support the centrality of ASEAN
3 within the regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific.

4 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

5 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to
7 the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on
8 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on
10 Appropriations of the Senate a report on the military coup
11 in Burma, including a description of efforts to implement
12 the policy specified in section 4.

