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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require a report on the military coup in Burma, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CONNOLLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To require a report on the military coup in Burma, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protect Democracy in
5 Burma Act in 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On March 14, 2005, the House of Rep-
9 resentatives agreed to H. Res. 135, which estab-

1 lished the House Democracy Assistance Commission
2 (later changed to the House Democracy Partnership,
3 hereafter referred to as “HDP”) to work directly
4 with parliaments around the world to support the
5 development of effective, independent, and respon-
6 sive legislative institutions.

7 (2) HDP approved a legislative strengthening
8 partnership with Burma in 2016 and organized the
9 first congressional delegation to meet with the new
10 civilian-led government, led by State Counselor Aung
11 San Suu Kyi, and civil society leaders in May 2016.

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

17 (4) As part of the military coup, the Burmese
18 military declared martial law, suspended the civilian-
19 led government, and detained newly elected Members
20 of Parliament in the capitol, Naypyidaw, thereby
21 usurping the role of the democratically elected gov-
22 ernment and parliament.

23 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

6 (2) the inability of newly elected Members of
7 Parliament to begin their official mandate due to the
8 Burmese military's actions directly threatens the
9 democratic trajectory of Burma's Parliament, and
10 thereby the country;

11 (3) the will and determination of those duly-
12 elected Members of Parliament who are taking it
13 upon themselves to continue serving as representa-
14 tives of the people through alternative methods of
15 communicating and convening should be lauded; and

16 (4) by preventing the Parliament from com-
17 pleting its work, the Burmese military has rendered
18 impossible and effectively nullified the international
19 collaborative relationships that have supported and
20 strengthened the institution, including the Burmese
21 parliament's partnership with HDP.

22 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

23 It is the policy of the United States to—

1 (1) engage with the Association of Southeast
2 Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN member
3 states to—

4 (A) condemn the military coup in Burma;

5 (B) urge the unconditional release of de-
6 tained democratically-elected leaders and civil
7 society members; and

8 (C) support a return to Burma's demo-
9 cratic transition; and

10 (2) instruct, as appropriate, representatives of
11 the United States Government to use the voice, vote,
12 and influence of the United States at the United
13 Nations to hold accountable those responsible for the
14 military coup in Burma.

15 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

16 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to
18 the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on
19 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the
20 Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on
21 Appropriations of the Senate a report on the military coup
22 in Burma, including a description of efforts to implement
23 the policy specified in section 4.