

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. CON. RES 27  
OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly “false information” in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemnation of Vladimir Putin’s policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian Government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for “carrying out the activities” of an “undesirable foreign organization” and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with “high treason” in part due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin’s military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, in April 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was unjustly sentenced to 25 years in prison;

Whereas the state of Mr. Kara-Murza’s health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition that under Russian law should have precluded him from detainment;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza’s unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin’s regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute’s Courage and Leadership Award

for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza “is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia” and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as “a personal hero whose courage, selflessness, and idealism I find awe-inspiring”;

Whereas, in March 2023, the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State imposed Global Magnitsky and other targeted sanctions on six Russians involved in Mr. Kara-Murza’s ongoing arbitrary detention, recognized his role as “a major advocate for the adoption of Magnitsky-style sanctions authorities by the United States, Canada, European Union, and United Kingdom to target human rights abusers and corrupt actors in Russia”, and called for his immediate release; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin’s authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That Congress—

2           (1) condemns in the strongest possible terms  
3           the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian demo-  
4           cratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

1           (2) calls on the Russian Federation to imme-  
2           diately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Rus-  
3           sian opposition leaders who are detained as a result  
4           of their opposition to the Putin regime;

5           (3) calls on all Russian citizens to outright con-  
6           demn Russia's illegal and unjust invasion of Ukraine  
7           in the spirit of Mr. Kara-Murza's defiant opposition  
8           stance in front of the Arizona House of Representa-  
9           tives in March 2022;

10          (4) expresses solidarity and calls for the release  
11          of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, in-  
12          cluding Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners  
13          by Putin's regime in violation of the rule of law as  
14          a result of their support for liberal democratic val-  
15          ues, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist  
16          Alsu Kurmasheva, and wrongfully-detained Ameri-  
17          cans Paul Whelan and Evan Gershkovich;

18          (5) calls on the United States Government to  
19          designate Mr. Kara-Murza, as well as Radio Free  
20          Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Alsu Kurmasheva,  
21          as wrongfully detained under the Levinson Act; and

22          (6) calls on the President of the United States  
23          and leaders from across the free world to work tire-  
24          lessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia  
25          and increase support for those advocating for democ-

1 racy in Russia as well as independent media and  
2 civil society which Mr. Kara-Murza has worked to  
3 further.

