Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1112, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
H. R. 1112

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. BUCHANAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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 of 2021”.
6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
7 Congress finds the following:
(1) On March 14, 2005, the House of Representatives agreed to H. Res. 135, which established the House Democracy Assistance Commission (later changed to the House Democracy Partnership, hereafter referred to as “HDP”) to work directly with parliaments around the world to support the development of effective, independent, and responsive legislative institutions.

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

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

(4) As part of the military coup, the Burmese military declared martial law, suspended the civilian-led government, and detained newly elected Members of Parliament in the capitol, Naypyidaw, thereby usurping the role of the democratically elected government and parliament.
SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

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

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

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

(4) by preventing the Parliament from completing its work, the Burmese military has rendered impossible and effectively nullified the international collaborative relationships that have supported and strengthened the institution, including the Burmese parliament’s partnership with HDP.

SEC. 4. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING BURMA’S DEMOCRACY.

It is the policy of the United States to—
(1) condemn the military coup in Burma, to
urge the unconditional release of detained democratically-elected leaders and civil society members, and
to support a return to Burma’s democratic transi-
tion;

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

(3) engage with the Association of Southeast
Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN member
states to promote a return to Burma’s democratic
transition and democratic values throughout South-
east Asia, and support the centrality of ASEAN
within the regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

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