

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5274
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Electoral Ex-
3 change Act”.

4 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) recent elections globally have illustrated the
7 urgent need for the promotion and exchange of
8 international best election practices, particularly in
9 the areas of cybersecurity, results transmission,
10 transparency of electoral data, election dispute reso-
11 lution, and the elimination of discriminatory reg-
12 istration practices and other electoral irregularities;

13 (2) the advancement of democracy worldwide
14 promotes American interests, as stable democracies
15 provide new market opportunities, improve global
16 health outcomes, and promote economic freedom and
17 regional security;

1 (3) credible elections are the cornerstone of a
2 healthy democracy and enable all persons to exercise
3 their basic human right to have a say in how they
4 are governed;

5 (4) inclusive elections strengthen the credibility
6 and stability of democracies more broadly, as demo-
7 cratic institutions flourish when representative of all
8 groups of society;

9 (5) at the heart of a strong election cycle is the
10 professionalism of the election management body
11 and an empowered civil society; and

12 (6) the development of local expertise via peer-
13 to-peer learning and exchanges promotes the inde-
14 pendence of such bodies from internal and external
15 influence.

16 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.**

17 (a) GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.—The Sec-
18 retary of State is authorized to establish and administer
19 a Global Electoral Exchange Program to promote the utili-
20 zation of sound election administration practices around
21 the world.

22 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Global Electoral
23 Exchange Program described in subsection (a) shall in-
24 clude the promotion and exchange of international best
25 election practices, including in the areas of cybersecurity,

1 results transmission, transparency of electoral data, elec-
2 tion dispute resolution, the elimination of discriminatory
3 registration practices and electoral irregularities, and
4 other sound election administration practices.

5 (c) EXCHANGE OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may,
7 in consultation, as appropriate, with the United
8 States Agency for International Development, make
9 grants to any United States-based organization de-
10 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
11 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
12 501(a) of such Code with experience in comparative
13 election systems or subject matter expertise in the
14 areas of election administration or electoral integrity
15 that submits an application in such form, and satis-
16 fying such requirements, as the Secretary may re-
17 quire.

18 (2) TYPES OF GRANTS.—An organization de-
19 scribed in paragraph (1) may receive a grant for one
20 or more of the following purposes:

21 (A) To design and implement programs
22 bringing election administrators and officials,
23 including government officials, poll workers,
24 civil society representatives, members of the ju-
25 diciary, and others who participate in the orga-

1 nization and administration of public elections
2 in a foreign country to the United States to
3 study election procedures in the United States
4 for educational purposes.

5 (B) To design and implement programs
6 taking United States or another country's elec-
7 tion administrators and officials, including gov-
8 ernment officials, poll workers, civil society rep-
9 resentatives, members of the judiciary, and oth-
10 ers who participate in the organization and ad-
11 ministration of public elections to study election
12 procedures for educational purposes.

13 (3) LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES.—Activities adminis-
14 tered under the Global Electoral Exchange Program
15 may not—

16 (A) include observation of an election for
17 the purposes of assessing the validity or legit-
18 imacy of that election; or

19 (B) facilitate any advocacy for a certain
20 electoral result by a grantee when participating
21 in the Program.

22 (4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
23 Congress that the Secretary of State should estab-
24 lish and maintain a network of Global Electoral Ex-
25 change Program alumni, to promote communication

1 and further exchange of information regarding
2 sound election administration practices among cur-
3 rent and former program participants.

4 (5) FURTHER LIMITS.—A recipient of a grant
5 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program may
6 use such grant for only the purpose for which such
7 grant was awarded, unless otherwise authorized by
8 the Secretary of State.

9 (6) NOT DUPLICATIVE.—Grants made under
10 this subsection may not be duplicative of any other
11 grants made under any other provision of law for
12 similar or related purposes.

13 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.**

14 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act and in each of the following two years
16 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide to the
17 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
18 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
19 ate a briefing on the status of any activities carried out
20 pursuant to this Act during the preceding year, which
21 shall include, among other information, the following:

22 (1) A summary of all exchanges conducted
23 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program, in-
24 cluding information regarding grantees, participants,
25 and the locations where program activities were held.

1 (2) A description of the criteria used to select
2 grantees under the Global Electoral Exchange Pro-
3 gram.

4 (3) Any recommendations for the improvement
5 of the Global Electoral Exchange Program, based on
6 the purpose specified in section 3(b).

