

SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2435 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180  
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING  
HOUSTON, TX 77002  
(713) 655-0050

ACRES HOME OFFICE:  
6719 WEST MONTGOMERY, SUITE 204  
HOUSTON, TX 77019  
(713) 691-4882

HEIGHTS OFFICE:  
420 WEST 19TH STREET  
HOUSTON, TX 77008  
(713) 961-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:  
3300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 301  
HOUSTON, TX 77020

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEES:  
JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
COURTS, THE INTERNET, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, REFUGEES, BORDER  
SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW  
CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY

HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIR  
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROTECTION  
BORDER, MARITIME, AND GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM

FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH  
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

SENIOR WHIP  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

WHIP  
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

CHAIR  
CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

**STATEMENT FOR**

**H.R. 835**

**“RODCHENKOV ANTI-DOPING ACT OF 2019”**

9

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

- Thank you, Chairman Nadler.
- The proliferation of illegal performance-enhancing drugs (“PEDs”) in sports damages the integrity of competition and defrauds individuals and corporate entities who participate in sporting

competitions, including clean U.S. athletes and U.S. corporate sponsors.

- However, due to the efforts of gallant whistleblowers, the complex inner workings of large-scale doping schemes are public knowledge.
- In 2016, Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov exposed the Russian state-sponsored doping scandal during the 2014 Sochi Olympics, which exposed the dozens of Russian athletes participating in the Sochi Games including 15 medal winners.
- By deceiving international anti-doping authorities and swapping athletes' samples, Russian officials cheated U.S. athletes out of Olympic glory and U.S. corporations out of honest sponsorships.
- Corrupt officials utilized bribery and illicit payments, and some of these payments were routed through U.S. financial institutions.
- A bipartisan effort is required to ensure that victims of doping fraud receive justice, that is why I, along with Representative Michael Burgess (R-TX) introduced the Rodchenkov Anti-

Doping Act (“RADA”), and we currently have 28 bipartisan cosponsors who believe in this legislation.

**Specifically, the RADA Act will:**

- **Establish criminal penalties for participating in a scheme in commerce to influence a major international sport competition through prohibited substances or methods.** This section applies to all major international sport competitions in which U.S. athletes participate, and where organizing entities receive sponsorship from companies doing business in the U.S. or are compensated for the right to broadcast their competition.
  - Penalties will include fines of up to \$1,000,000, or imprisonment of up to ten years, depending on the offense.
- **Provide restitution to victims of such conspiracies.** Athletes and other persons who are victims of major international doping fraud conspiracies shall be

entitled to restitution for losses inflicted upon them by fraudsters and conspirators.

- **Protect whistleblowers from retaliation.** By criminalizing participation in international doping fraud conspiracies, whistleblowers will be included under existing witness protection laws.
- **Establish coordination and sharing of information with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).** Federal agencies involved in the fight against doping shall coordinate and share information with USADA, whose mission is to preserve the integrity of competition and protect the rights of athletes, to enhance their collective efforts to curb doping fraud.
- This bill would provide justice to clean U.S. athletes, such as Olympic runner Alysia Montaña, skeleton racer Katie Uhlaender, bobsledder Steve Holcomb, and many other champions who pursue excellence over glory.

- They have been denied medals that were rightfully theirs and cheated out of lucrative opportunities, such as sponsorships.
- Most importantly, they have been deprived of the pride of seeing their country's flag being raised on the Olympic podium—an emotional moment that was stolen from them.
- In the case of Mr. Holcomb, his bobsled team's bronze medals were upgraded to silver in the spring of 2019, after the Russian teams were disqualified for doping offenses during the 2014 Sochi Games.
- Tragically, Mr. Holcomb was not here to see it, having died in 2017.
- The Rodchenkov Act comes at a crucial time for the international fight against doping in sports **AND IS SUPPORTED BY the U.S. Helsinki Commission.**
- On October 14, 2019, the New York Times reported that, as suspected, Russia made thousands of changes to the drug-test results of an unspecified number of its athletes, the head of

the country's own antidoping agency said this week, confirming the suspicions of global officials who are considering severe penalties against Russian sports programs.

- The Russian doping fraud scandal shook the very foundations of the global anti-doping system and the problem shows no signs of stopping.
- The ultimate victims of doping fraud are clean athletes, who want nothing more than to compete on a level playing field.
- There are countless examples of U.S. athletes who have been defrauded by international doping fraud conspiracies.
- These athletes are deprived of Olympic glory and denied their rightful prize money and sponsorships.
- **The Rodchenkov Act is fully compatible with the UNESCO Convention Against Doping in Sport and the World Anti-Doping Code**, greatly enhances the fight against doping by creating additional legal tools to help guard

against the type of behavior discovered in the Russian doping scandal.

- By criminalizing international doping conspiracies, the Rodchenkov Act provides law enforcement with a greater ability to investigate and pursue, and ultimately hold accountable, doping fraud perpetrators.
- In addition, this act will provide doping whistleblowers the same protections that are given to whistleblowers of other serious crimes, and are all acutely aware of the current importance of protecting whistle blowers.
- This legislation is not only vital, but it is fully consistent with international law.
- I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.
- Thank you Chairman Nadler and I yield back.