

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 25**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress to support democracy and the civilian-led people of Burma.

Sandlin

February 2, 2022, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 25

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress to
2 support democracy and the civilian-led people of Burma.

3 *Whereas, On February 1, 2021, the military of Burma (the*
4 *"Tatmadaw") seized power in a coup just before a new*
5 *government was scheduled to be formed;*

6 *Whereas, Burma is composed of multiple ethno-religious*
7 *groups and political factions, including armed militias exerting*
8 *considerable control in parts of the country;*

9 *Whereas, Since its independence in 1948, political*
10 *instability and fighting in the country has been described by*
11 *some observers as "the world's longest running civil war";*

12 *Whereas, Burma's military-controlled administration took*
13 *power in a March 1962 coup d'état and has had a long history*
14 *of authoritarian rule over the people of Burma and taking*
15 *ruthless and oppressive actions towards ethnic minorities*
16 *across the country;*

17 *Whereas, In 1988, the people of Burma, led by university*
18 *students, protested against the military dictatorship, resulting*
19 *in a brutal crackdown on unarmed protestors and killing or*
20 *displacing thousands;*

21 *Whereas, In May 1990, the Tatmadaw, called for the*
22 *election of a new legislature, which saw the opposition party,*
23 *the National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Aung San*
24 *Suu Kyi, win four-fifths of the available seats;*



1 *Whereas, The Tatmadaw did not honor the results of the*
2 *election, prohibiting the legislature from convening and placing*
3 *two of the NLD's leaders under house arrest;*

4 *Whereas, Facing political challenges from the people of*
5 *Burma, the military leaders ratified a new constitution in 2008*
6 *to allow for national elections in 2010, but the constitutional*
7 *amendment also imposed a requirement that one-fourth of the*
8 *members of each legislative chamber would be appointed by the*
9 *Tatmadaw;*

10 *Whereas, In the 2010 elections, following a series of*
11 *election reform laws that forced the NLD to dissolve and annul*
12 *the results of the 1990 elections, Tatmadaw-supported*
13 *candidates formed a semi-democratic civilian government and*
14 *began to experience years of growth;*

15 *Whereas, Between 2016 and 2018, the country's military*
16 *and paramilitary forces conducted a campaign of brutal*
17 *repression against the country's Rohingya people, an ethno-*
18 *religious group of Muslims living in the Rakhine State, causing*
19 *an estimated 800,000 to flee the country;*

20 *Whereas, On November 8, 2020, Burma conducted another*
21 *parliamentary election, which resulted in the NLD winning a*
22 *clear majority in both chambers, leading to the Tatmadaw*
23 *rejecting the results of the election;*

24 *Whereas, On February 1, 2021, the parliament was*
25 *scheduled to convene for the first time since the 2020 general*
26 *election, however, the Tatmadaw arrested and detained NLD*
27 *leaders, including State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and*
28 *President Win Myint, claimed unlawful control of the country's*
29 *government, and enacted portions of its constitution to declare*
30 *a national emergency to further consolidate power in the hands*
31 *of the general staff of the Tatmadaw;*

32 *Whereas, In response to the coup, a general strike was held*
33 *on February 22, 2021, across Burma, with countless citizens*
34 *participating and with protests continuing day and night;*



1 *Whereas, Internet access and connectivity was cut off or*
2 *strictly limited to hide illegal actions taken by the Tatmadaw*
3 *against the people of Burma and hinder the people of Burma in*
4 *their legitimate struggle for democracy;*

5 *Whereas, At least 1,100 civilians have been killed by the*
6 *military and their allied gangs and paramilitary groups in*
7 *Burma since protests against the military started, per the*
8 *United Nations;*

9 *Whereas, Instability generated by the military coup may*
10 *exacerbate long-standing tensions among ethnic and religious*
11 *groups in Burma, leading to increased violence;*

12 *Whereas, In recent decades an estimated 40,000 refugees*
13 *have fled Burma and are still living in neighboring countries,*
14 *including Malaysia, India, and Thailand, and many would be*
15 *risking arrest or their lives should they return;*

16 *Whereas, There are an estimated 200,000 Burmese living*
17 *in the United States, many of whom arrived in the past 15 years*
18 *as refugees escaping violence and oppression at the hands of*
19 *the military;*

20 *Whereas, More than 30,000 Burmese refugees have settled*
21 *in Indiana, with nearly 20,000 of the total refugees living on the*
22 *south side of Indianapolis;*

23 *Whereas, Following the latest actions by the Tatmadaw,*
24 *U.S. citizens and activists abroad have joined in solidarity with*
25 *the people of Burma to protest the actions of the Tatmadaw, to*
26 *support democratic reform, and to end any human rights*
27 *violations;*

28 *Whereas, Pressure, engagement, and intervention from the*
29 *international community is needed to uphold democracy; and*

30 *Whereas, The United States, with the support of*
31 *international partners and the international community, must*
32 *act urgently to prevent further bloodshed in the country:*



1 *Therefore,*

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
3 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*
4 *concurring:*

5 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the
6 United States Congress to support a swift end to the civil war,
7 the long-desired popular democratic reforms, and the return to
8 power of all members of the rightfully-elected civilian
9 government.

10 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the
11 United States Congress to allow more Burmese refugees, who
12 fled their country to escape persecution and violence, an
13 opportunity to settle in the United States.

14 SECTION 3. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the
15 United States Congress and the United Nations Security
16 Council to consider additional measures to support the people
17 of Burma in their quest for democracy.

18 SECTION 4. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby
19 directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to each member
20 of the Indiana congressional delegation.

