

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6257

For the relief of Judge Neringa Venckiene, who the Government of Lithuania seeks on charges related to her pursuit of justice against Lithuanian public officials accused of sexually molesting her young niece.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2018

Mr. HULTGREN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

For the relief of Judge Neringa Venckiene, who the Government of Lithuania seeks on charges related to her pursuit of justice against Lithuanian public officials accused of sexually molesting her young niece.

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 “Give Judge Venckiene
5 Her Day in Court Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Judge Neringa Venckiene fled to the United
2 States in 2013 and requested political asylum after
3 a 5-year battle in Lithuania to secure justice for her
4 4-year-old niece, Deimante Kedyte, who reported
5 that she was being sexually molested by Lithuanian
6 government officials while in her mother's care.

7 (2) Deimante Kedyte's claims of sexual moles-
8 tation were evaluated by court-ordered psychologists
9 and psychiatrists and deemed to be credible.

10 (3) Deimante Kedyte accused of sexual molesta-
11 tion an assistant to the Speaker of the Parliament
12 and a sitting judge, both associates of her mother.

13 (4) Judge Venckiene and Deimante Kedyte's fa-
14 ther petitioned law enforcement and the courts for
15 full investigation of Deimante's claims against the
16 accused individuals, but believed the ensuing inves-
17 tigation to be negligent.

18 (5) Lithuania's parliament (Legal and Judici-
19 ary Committees) issued a report in 2010 that
20 deemed the investigation into Deimante Kedyte's
21 sexual molestation accusations to be negligent and
22 found that the negligence had compromised the case
23 against the public officials.

1 (6) After Deimante Kedyte’s father went miss-
2 ing in 2009, Judge Venckiene was awarded guard-
3 ianship of Deimante.

4 (7) Deimante Kedyte’s mother was never in-
5 dicted for complicity in the sexual molestation de-
6 spite a Vilnius District Court Ruling in October
7 2009 that there was enough evidence to indict her.

8 (8) In December 2011, Judge Venckiene was
9 ordered to give Deimante Kedyte, then 7 years old,
10 back to her mother, but Deimante refused to return
11 to her mother, indicating fear of sexual molestation.

12 (9) Hundreds of Lithuanians kept vigil outside
13 Judge Venckiene’s house to prevent the Lithuanian
14 Government from removing Deimante Kedyte.

15 (10) In May 2012, the Lithuanian Government
16 sent more than 200 police officers to take Deimante
17 Kedyte from Judge Venckiene by force.

18 (11) Deimante Kedyte clung to Judge
19 Venckiene, was ripped from her, was carried away
20 shrieking, and has completely disappeared from pub-
21 lic view for the last 6 years.

22 (12) The Lithuanian Government’s action re-
23 sulted in protests against the Lithuanian Govern-
24 ment in Lithuania and at numerous Lithuanian em-
25 bassies around the world, as well as in the United

1 States when the Lithuanian President attended the
2 NATO summit in Chicago in May 2012.

3 (13) Judge Venckiene published a book entitled
4 “Way of Courage” in 2012 about Deimante
5 Kedyte’s ordeal and Lithuania’s failure to properly
6 investigate and prosecute the case against the gov-
7 ernment officials.

8 (14) “Way of Courage” became the name of a
9 new, anti-corruption, anti-pedophilia political party
10 in Lithuania, which elected Judge Venckiene to
11 Lithuania’s parliament in 2012.

12 (15) Judge Venckiene sought political asylum in
13 the United States in 2013 after she received threats
14 and experienced what she believed was an attempt
15 on her life following a political rally, and after the
16 Lithuanian Government moved to lift Judge
17 Venckiene’s parliamentary immunity.

18 (16) The Lithuanian Government has system-
19 atically prosecuted for “false statements” and other
20 crimes the journalists, a medical professional,
21 Deimante Kedyte’s grandparents, Judge Venckiene’s
22 neighbor, people who attended rallies on her behalf,
23 and many others who came forward with evidence or
24 support of Deimante Kedyte’s claims of sexual mo-

1 lestation or who opposed the violent removal of
2 Deimante from Judge Venckiene.

3 (17) Lithuania has leveled more than 35
4 charges against Judge Venckiene, including charges
5 for filing petitions on behalf of Deimante Kedyte
6 with Lithuania’s courts and the Child’s Rights Om-
7 budsman, making statements critical of the inves-
8 tigation to journalists, describing in her book the
9 sexual molestation case against and naming the pub-
10 lic officials, involvement in “unauthorized protests”,
11 “humiliating the court”, desecrating the national an-
12 them, conducting her own investigation into the
13 case, failing to turn Deimante over to the accused
14 mother, bruising an officer, and kicking at
15 Deimante’s mother when the mother tried to remove
16 Deimante.

17 (18) The extradition treaty signed by the
18 United States and the Republic of Lithuania on Oc-
19 tober 23, 2001, does not permit for Judge Venckiene
20 to offer counter-evidence in United States court to
21 any of Lithuania’s charges against her or to make
22 the case for political motivation.

23 (19) A United States Magistrate Judge in April
24 2018 approved extradition for charges that Judge
25 Venckiene hindered the activities of a bailiff, failed

1 to comply with a court’s decision not associated with
2 a penalty, caused physical pain, and resisted against
3 a civil servant or a person performing the functions
4 of public administration—all charges related to
5 Deimante Kedyte being taken from Judge
6 Venckiene’s home and returned to the accused moth-
7 er.

8 (20) Former political prisoners, as well as cur-
9 rent and former government officials in Lithuania
10 have written to the United States Government,
11 warning that the Lithuanian Government’s charges
12 against Judge Venckiene are politically motivated.

13 (21) The Chairman of the Supreme Court of
14 Lithuania Gintaras Kryzevicius has been reported as
15 publicly saying that Judge Venckiene “is an abscess
16 in the legal system and an abscess in the political
17 system” and “the trouble of the whole state”.

18 (22) Sweden, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Den-
19 mark, Malta, Ukraine, and Russia have all refused
20 to extradite individuals to Lithuania.

21 (23) Judge Venckiene can present evidence con-
22 cerning the political motivation of Lithuania’s
23 charges against her before an immigration judge if
24 she is excluded from the extradition treaty and al-

1 lowed to proceed with her political asylum case, filed
2 in 2013 and scheduled to be heard in July 2019.

3 **SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN**
4 **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE**
5 **REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
7 sion of law, Judge Neringa Venckiene shall be excluded
8 from extradition under the Extradition Treaty Between
9 the Government of the United States of America and the
10 Government of the Republic of Lithuania, signed at
11 Vilnius on October 23, 2001, and entered into force on
12 March 31, 2003 (as amended by the Protocol on the Appli-
13 cation of the Agreement on Extradition between the
14 Unites States of America and the European Union to the
15 Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United
16 States of America and the Government of the Republic
17 of Lithuania, signed at Brussels on June 15, 2005, and
18 entered into force on February 1, 2010), and excluded
19 from all other laws allowing for her extradition to Lith-
20 uania.

21 (b) POLITICAL ASYLUM.—Judge Neringa Venckiene
22 shall be permitted to remain in the United States until
23 a final order is issued with respect to her pending applica-
24 tion for asylum.

1 (c) FREE MOVEMENT.—Judge Neringa Venckiene
2 shall not be held in Federal or State prison or detention
3 for any immigration-related or extradition-related offense
4 and shall be allowed free movement and continued work
5 permission until a final order is issued with respect to her
6 pending application for asylum.

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