

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7245

To provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2018

Mr. SIREs (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. TORRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “Venezuela Humanitarian Relief, Reconstruction, and
 4 Rule of Law Act of 2018”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
 6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Sense of Congress.

TITLE I—HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR VENEZUELA

- Sec. 101. Humanitarian assistance to Venezuelans in neighboring countries.
- Sec. 102. Support for efforts at the United Nations on the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

**TITLE II—RESTORING DEMOCRACY AND ADDRESSING THE
 POLITICAL CRISIS IN VENEZUELA**

- Sec. 201. Recognition of Venezuela’s democratically elected National Assembly.
- Sec. 202. Advancing a negotiated solution to Venezuela’s crisis.
- Sec. 203. Support for the Lima Group.
- Sec. 204. Accountability for crimes against humanity.

TITLE III—SUPPORTING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VENEZUELA

- Sec. 301. Engaging international financial institutions to advance the reconstruction of Venezuela’s economy and energy infrastructure.
- Sec. 302. Recovering assets stolen from the Venezuelan people.

TITLE IV—RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW IN VENEZUELA

- Sec. 401. Public information about sanctioned officials.
- Sec. 402. Coordinating targeted sanctions with partners in the Western Hemisphere and the European Union.
- Sec. 403. Financial sanctions on Venezuelan government debt.
- Sec. 404. Exceptions for humanitarian assistance.

**TITLE V—CRYPTOCURRENCY SANCTIONS AND ENSURING THE
 EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED STATES SANCTIONS**

- Sec. 501. Sanctions on Venezuela’s cryptocurrency and the provision of related technologies.
- Sec. 502. Report on the impact of cryptocurrencies on United States sanctions.

TITLE VI—TERMINATION

- Sec. 601. Extension and termination of sanctions against Venezuela.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) Venezuela’s electoral event on May 20,
2 2018—

3 (A) was not legitimate; and

4 (B) did not comply with international
5 standards for a free, fair, and transparent
6 democratic process; and

7 (2) senior officials in the de facto government
8 of Nicolás Maduro—

9 (A) have taken continuous steps—

10 (i) to consolidate an authoritarian
11 government; and

12 (ii) to direct political control over
13 Venezuela’s Supreme Tribunal of Justice,
14 National Electoral Council, and armed
15 forces;

16 (B) have implemented policies that are di-
17 rectly responsible for—

18 (i) Venezuela’s economic and humani-
19 tarian crises; and

20 (ii) the massive outflow of Venezuelan
21 migrants leaving the country;

22 (C) have used access to food as a tool of
23 political coercion and a source of corruption
24 and have directly profited from corruption in
25 food procurement contracts;

1 (D) have utilized repressive tactics to vio-
2 late and curtail human rights, political rights,
3 freedom of expression, and freedom of the
4 press, including the arbitrary detention of polit-
5 ical prisoners; and

6 (E) have engaged in acts of gross corrup-
7 tion and criminality that have contributed to
8 the absence of the rule of law in Venezuela.

9 **TITLE I—HUMANITARIAN**
10 **RELIEF FOR VENEZUELA**

11 **SEC. 101. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELANS**
12 **IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
14 nation with the Administrator of the United States Agen-
15 cy for International Development, shall work through
16 international and nongovernmental organizations to pro-
17 vide Venezuelans in neighboring countries with humani-
18 tarian aid, such as—

19 (1) urgently needed health and nutritional as-
20 sistance, including logistical and technical assistance
21 to hospitals and health centers in affected commu-
22 nities;

23 (2) food assistance for vulnerable individuals,
24 including assistance to improve food security for af-
25 fected communities; and

1 (3) hygiene supplies and sanitation services.

2 (b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The assistance de-
3 scribed in subsection (a)—

4 (1) may be provided—

5 (A) directly to Venezuelans in neighboring
6 countries; or

7 (B) indirectly through the communities in
8 which the Venezuelans reside; and

9 (2) should focus on the most vulnerable Ven-
10 ezuelans in neighboring countries.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
13 appropriated to the Secretary of State \$20,000,000
14 for fiscal year 2019 to carry out the activities set
15 forth in subsection (a) in accordance with this sec-
16 tion.

17 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
19 under subparagraph (B), amounts appropriated
20 or otherwise made available pursuant to para-
21 graph (1) may not be obligated until 15 days
22 after the date on which the President provides
23 notice to the appropriate congressional commit-
24 tees of the intent to obligate such funds.

25 (B) WAIVER.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
2 State may waive the requirement under
3 subparagraph (A) if the Secretary deter-
4 mines that such requirement would pose a
5 substantial risk to human health or wel-
6 fare.

7 (ii) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—If
8 a waiver is invoked under clause (i), the
9 President shall notify the appropriate con-
10 gressional committees of the intention to
11 obligate funds under this section as early
12 as practicable, but not later than 3 days
13 after taking the action to which such noti-
14 fication requirement was applicable in the
15 context of the circumstances necessitating
16 such waiver.

17 (C) DEFINED TERM.—In this subpara-
18 graph, the term “appropriate congressional
19 committees” means—

20 (i) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
21 tions of the Senate;

22 (ii) the Committee on Appropriations
23 of the Senate;

24 (iii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
25 of the House of Representatives; and

1 (iv) the Committee on Appropriations
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 **SEC. 102. SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS**
4 **ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VEN-**
5 **EZUELA.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the United Nations humanitarian agencies, in-
8 cluding the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian
9 Affairs, the World Health Organization, the Pan Amer-
10 ican Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Orga-
11 nization, UNICEF, and the United Nations High Com-
12 missioner for Refugees, should conduct and publish inde-
13 pendent assessments regarding—

14 (1) the extent and impact of the shortages of
15 food and medicine in Venezuela; and

16 (2) the efforts needed to resolve such shortages.

17 (b) INITIAL EFFORTS.—The President shall instruct
18 the Permanent Representative of the United States to the
19 United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United
20 States in the United Nations Security Council to secure
21 the necessary votes—

22 (1) to place the humanitarian and political cri-
23 sis in Venezuela on the United Nations Security
24 Council's Programme of Work; and

1 (2) to secure a Presidential Statement from the
2 President of the United Nations Security Council
3 urging the Government of Venezuela—

4 (A) to allow the delivery of humanitarian
5 relief; and

6 (B) to lift bureaucratic impediments or
7 any other obstacles preventing independent non-
8 governmental organizations from providing the
9 proper assistance to the people of Venezuela
10 without any interference by the Government of
11 Venezuela.

12 (c) UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN COORDI-
13 NATOR.—The President shall instruct the Permanent Rep-
14 resentative to the United Nations to use the voice and in-
15 fluence of the United States to advance the appointment
16 of a United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Ven-
17 ezuela to lead and coordinate the efforts of humanitarian
18 organizations in a manner that contributes to Venezuela’s
19 long-term recovery.

20 (d) ADDITIONAL EFFORTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Government of Ven-
22 ezuela refuses to allow the delivery of humanitarian
23 relief and to lift bureaucratic impediments and any
24 other obstacles described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the
25 President, beginning not later than 30 days after the

1 conclusion of the efforts of the United Nations de-
2 scribed in such subsection, shall instruct the Perma-
3 nent Representative of the United States to the
4 United Nations to use the voice and vote of the
5 United States to secure the adoption of a resolution
6 described in paragraph (2).

7 (2) RESOLUTION DESCRIBED.—The resolution
8 described in this paragraph is a Resolution of the
9 United Nations Security Council that—

10 (A) requires the Government of Venezuela
11 to promptly allow safe and unhindered access
12 for humanitarian agencies and their imple-
13 menting partners, including possible support
14 from neighboring countries; and

15 (B) calls on the Government of Ven-
16 ezuela—

17 (i) to allow the delivery of food and
18 medicine to the people of Venezuela;

19 (ii) to end human rights violations
20 against the people of Venezuela;

21 (iii) to agree to free, fair, and trans-
22 parent elections with credible international
23 observers;

24 (iv) to cease violence against the peo-
25 ple of Venezuela; and

1 (v) to release all political prisoners
2 held by the Government of Venezuela.

3 **TITLE II—RESTORING DEMOC-**
4 **RACY AND ADDRESSING THE**
5 **POLITICAL CRISIS IN VEN-**
6 **EZUELA**

7 **SEC. 201. RECOGNITION OF VENEZUELA’S DEMOCRAT-**
8 **ICALLY ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
10 ings:

11 (1) Venezuela’s unicameral National Assembly
12 convened on January 6, 2016, following democratic
13 elections that were held on December 6, 2015.

14 (2) Venezuela’s National Constituent Assembly
15 convened on August 4, 2017, in the aftermath of an
16 election on July 30, 2017, which was characterized
17 by widespread fraud and, as a result of administra-
18 tive processes, failed to comply with the Constitution
19 of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

20 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that actions taken by the Government of Venezuela
22 that require legislative approval, ratification, or concur-
23 rence, including the provision or refinancing of debts,
24 should only be recognized as legitimate by the United
25 States and the international community if such legislative

1 actions are performed by the democratically elected Na-
2 tional Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3 (c) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

4 (1) to recognize the democratically elected Na-
5 tional Assembly of Venezuela as the only legitimate
6 national legislative body in Venezuela; and

7 (2) not to recognize Venezuela’s National Con-
8 stituent Assembly as a legitimate legislative body.

9 **SEC. 202. ADVANCING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO VEN-**
10 **EZUELA’S CRISIS.**

11 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that—

13 (1) direct, credible negotiations between the
14 Government of Venezuela and political opposition,
15 which include democratically elected deputies of the
16 National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of
17 Venezuela, are supported by stakeholders in the
18 international diplomatic community, and include the
19 input and interests of Venezuelan civil society, rep-
20 resent the best opportunity to reach a solution to the
21 Venezuelan crisis that includes—

22 (A) restoring democracy and the rule of
23 law;

24 (B) freeing political prisoners;

1 (C) facilitating the delivery of humani-
2 tarian aid; and

3 (D) establishing conditions for free and
4 fair democratic elections;

5 (2) negotiations between the Government of
6 Venezuela and political opposition that commenced
7 in October 2017, and were supported by the Govern-
8 ments of Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, and Nicaragua, did
9 not result in an agreement because the Government
10 of Venezuela failed to credibly participate in the
11 process; and

12 (3) negotiations between the Government of
13 Venezuela and political opposition that commenced
14 in October 2016, and were supported by the Vati-
15 can, did not result in an agreement because the Gov-
16 ernment of Venezuela failed to credibly participate
17 in the process.

18 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to
19 support diplomatic engagement in order to advance a ne-
20 gotiated solution to Venezuela’s political, economic, and
21 humanitarian crisis that is described in subsection (a)(1).

22 **SEC. 203. SUPPORT FOR THE LIMA GROUP.**

23 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
24 ings:

1 (1) The Lima Group is a diplomatic bloc whose
2 members include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile,
3 Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Hon-
4 duras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Saint
5 Lucia.

6 (2) The Lima Group—

7 (A) has condemned the rupture of the
8 democratic order in Venezuela;

9 (B) has reaffirmed the authority of the
10 democratically elected National Assembly of
11 Venezuela;

12 (C) has rejected Venezuela’s National Con-
13 stituent Assembly;

14 (D) has called on the Government of Ven-
15 ezuela to accept humanitarian assistance in
16 order to address the country’s growing eco-
17 nomic crisis; and

18 (E) has stated that it does not recognize
19 the legitimacy of Venezuela’s May 20, 2018,
20 presidential election as it did not comply with
21 international standards for a democratic, free,
22 fair, and transparent process.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that the Secretary of State should conduct diplo-
25 matic engagement in support of efforts by the Lima Group

1 to restore democracy and the rule of law Venezuela and
2 facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the
3 Venezuelan people.

4 **SEC. 204. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMAN-**
5 **ITY.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) On July 25, 2017, the Secretary General of
9 the Organization of American States stated “the
10 systematic attack against the civilian population [of
11 Venezuela] includes murders, imprisonment and tor-
12 ture, and it is evident in the eyes of the inter-
13 national community that we are in the presence of
14 crimes against humanity.”.

15 (2) On September 11, 2017, the United Na-
16 tions High Commissioner for Human Rights stated
17 that Venezuelan security forces may have committed
18 crimes against humanity against protesters and
19 called for a credible international investigation.

20 (3) A November 29, 2017, report by Human
21 Rights Watch documented that Venezuelan security
22 forces had used extreme and, at times, lethal forces
23 against protesters and, once detained, subjected
24 them to abuses ranging from severe beatings to tor-

1 ture involving electric shocks, asphyxiation, and
2 other techniques.

3 (4) On February 8, 2018, the Prosecutor of the
4 International Criminal Court opened a preliminary
5 examination of the situation in Venezuela as it re-
6 lates to Venezuelan security forces using excessive
7 force against civilians and the political opposition.

8 (5) On May 29, 2018, a panel of independent
9 international experts convened by the Secretary Gen-
10 eral of the Organization of American States found
11 that “there are reasonable grounds that satisfy the
12 standard of proof required by Article 53 of the
13 Rome Statute for considering that acts to which the
14 civilian population of Venezuela was subjected [. . .]
15 constitute crimes against humanity”.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that the Secretary of State should conduct robust
18 diplomatic engagement in support of efforts in Venezuela,
19 and on the part of the international community, to ensure
20 accountability for possible crimes against humanity and
21 other violations of international humanitarian law and vio-
22 lations and abuses of human rights.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
25 submit a report to Congress that—

1 (1) evaluates the degree to which the Govern-
2 ment of Venezuela and its officials, including mem-
3 bers of the Venezuelan security force, have engaged
4 in actions that constitute crimes against humanity
5 and violations of international humanitarian law;
6 and

7 (2) provides options for holding accountable the
8 perpetrators identified under paragraph (1).

9 **TITLE III—SUPPORTING THE RE-**
10 **CONSTRUCTION OF VEN-**
11 **EZUELA**

12 **SEC. 301. ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-**
13 **TIONS TO ADVANCE THE RECONSTRUCTION**
14 **OF VENEZUELA’S ECONOMY AND ENERGY IN-**
15 **FRASTRUCTURE.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Treasury, in
17 consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary
18 of Energy, should work through the United States Execu-
19 tive Directors to the International Monetary Fund and the
20 Multilateral Development Banks to create a framework for
21 the economic reconstruction of Venezuela, contingent upon
22 the restoration of democracy and the rule of law in the
23 country.

1 (b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The framework cre-
2 ated under subsection (a) should include policy pro-
3 posals—

4 (1) to provide Venezuelans with humanitarian
5 assistance, poverty alleviation, and a social safety
6 net;

7 (2) to advance debt restructuring and debt sus-
8 tainability measures;

9 (3) to restore the production and efficient man-
10 agement of Venezuela’s oil industry, including re-
11 building energy infrastructure;

12 (4) to eliminate price controls and market dis-
13 torting subsidies in the Venezuelan economy; and

14 (5) to address hyperinflation in Venezuela.

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—In creating the framework
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary of Treasury, the Sec-
17 retary of State, and the Secretary of Energy shall consult
18 with relevant stakeholders in the humanitarian, financial
19 and energy sectors.

20 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that any effort to conduct debt restructuring
22 should—

23 (1) include discussions with China, which is
24 Venezuela’s biggest creditor; and

1 (2) appropriately account for China’s and Rus-
2 sia’s high-risk lending to Venezuela.

3 (e) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Treasury may
4 not support lending or financing from the International
5 Monetary Fund and the Multilateral Development Banks
6 until the Secretary of State submits a report to the Com-
7 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and Committee
8 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives certi-
9 fying that the Government of Venezuela is committed to—

10 (1) restoring democracy and the rule of law;

11 (2) freeing political prisoners;

12 (3) facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid;

13 and

14 (4) establishing conditions for free and fair
15 democratic elections.

16 (f) BRIEFINGS.—Upon a request from the Committee
17 on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on
18 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Com-
19 mittee on Finance of the Senate, or the Committee on
20 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the
21 Secretary of Treasury shall brief the requesting committee
22 on the progress made in implementing the framework cre-
23 ated under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 302. RECOVERING ASSETS STOLEN FROM THE VEN-**
2 **EZUELAN PEOPLE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) Venezuela ranked 169th out of 180 coun-
6 tries in Transparency International’s Corruption
7 Perception Index 2017.

8 (2) In March 2016, the International Center for
9 Asset Recovery at the Basel Institute on Governance
10 in Switzerland estimated that approximately
11 \$350,000,000,000 in public funding had been lost in
12 Venezuela as the result of corruption, fraud, and
13 graft.

14 (3) In March 2015, the Department of the
15 Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
16 determined that approximately \$2,000,000,000 had
17 been siphoned from Venezuela’s public oil company,
18 *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A.*, in conjunction with its
19 designation of the *Banca Privada d’Andorra* as a
20 Foreign Financial Institution of Primary Money
21 Laundering Concern.

22 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
23 nation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attor-
24 ney General, shall advance a coordinated international ef-
25 fort—

1 (1) to carry out special financial investigations
2 to identify and track assets taken from the people
3 and institutions of Venezuela through theft, corrup-
4 tion, money laundering, or other illicit means; and

5 (2) work with foreign governments—

6 (A) to share financial investigations intel-
7 ligence, as appropriate;

8 (B) to block the assets identified pursuant
9 to paragraph (1); and

10 (C) to advance necessary civil forfeiture
11 litigation, including providing technical assist-
12 ance to help governments establish the nec-
13 essary legal framework to carry out asset for-
14 feitures.

15 (c) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The coordinated inter-
16 national effort described in subsection (b) shall—

17 (1) include input from—

18 (A) the Office of Foreign Assets Control of
19 the Department of the Treasury;

20 (B) the Financial Crimes Enforcement
21 Network of the Department of the Treasury;
22 and

23 (C) the Money Laundering and Asset Re-
24 covery Section of the Department of Justice;

1 (2) identify appropriate steps to advance nec-
2 essary civil forfeiture litigation in the United States;

3 (3) include an assessment of whether the
4 United States or another member of the inter-
5 national community should establish a managed
6 fund to hold the assets identified pursuant to sub-
7 section (b)(1) that could be returned to a future
8 democratic government in Venezuela; and

9 (4) include recommendations for new legislative
10 and regulatory measures in the United States that
11 would be needed to establish and manage the fund
12 described in paragraph (3).

13 (d) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180
14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
15 retary of State shall submit a strategy for carrying out
16 the activities described in subsection (b) to—

17 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
18 Senate;

19 (2) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

20 (3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
21 ate;

22 (4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
23 House of Representatives;

24 (5) the Committee on Ways and Means of the
25 House of Representatives; and

1 (6) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 (e) BRIEFINGS.—Upon a request from 1 of the con-
4 gressional committees listed in subsection (d), the Sec-
5 retary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, or the At-
6 torney General shall brief the requesting committee on the
7 progress made in implementing the effort described in
8 subsection (b).

9 **TITLE IV—RESTORING THE**
10 **RULE OF LAW IN VENEZUELA**

11 **SEC. 401. PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT SANCTIONED OFFI-**
12 **CIALS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days
15 thereafter, except as provided in subsection (c), the Sec-
16 retary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of
17 State, shall submit a report to Congress that describes the
18 total assessed value of blocked assets of Venezuelans des-
19 ignated under sanctions authorized under—

20 (1) the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation
21 Act (title VIII of Public Law 106–120; 21 U.S.C.
22 1901 et seq.);

23 (2) the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights
24 and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–
25 278); or

1 (3) Executive Order 13692 (50 U.S.C. 1701
2 note).

3 (b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—Reports submitted
4 under subsection (a) should provide descriptions of specific
5 cases that are most representative of the endemic corrup-
6 tion and illicit financial activities occurring in Venezuela.

7 (c) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The Secretary of
8 Treasury is not required to submit an updated report to
9 Congress under subsection (a) unless, since the submission
10 of the preceding report—

11 (1) there has been meaningful change in the
12 value of blocked assets; or

13 (2) additional individuals have been targeted for
14 sanctions under the authorities listed in subsection
15 (a).

16 (d) BRIEFINGS.—If the Secretary of Treasury exer-
17 cises the exception described in subsection (c), the Sec-
18 retary of the Treasury, or designee, shall brief Congress
19 on—

20 (1) the decision to exercise the exception; and

21 (2) information related to the value of blocked
22 assets described in subsection (a).

23 (e) FORM.—Reports required under this section shall
24 be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a clas-
25 sified annex.

1 **SEC. 402. COORDINATING TARGETED SANCTIONS WITH**
2 **PARTNERS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**
3 **AND THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

4 (a) **STRENGTHENING SANCTIONS CAPACITY IN LATIN**
5 **AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**—The Secretary of State,
6 working through the Assistant Secretary of State for Eco-
7 nomic and Business Affairs and the Assistant Secretary
8 of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement
9 Affairs, and in coordination with the Secretary of the
10 Treasury, shall provide technical assistance to partner
11 governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist
12 such governments in establishing the legislative and regu-
13 latory frameworks needed to impose targeted sanctions on
14 Venezuelan officials who—

- 15 (1) are responsible for human rights abuses;
16 (2) have engaged in public corruption; or
17 (3) are undermining democratic institutions and
18 processes in Venezuela.

19 (b) **COORDINATING INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS.**—
20 The Secretary of State shall engage in diplomatic efforts
21 with partner governments, including the Government of
22 Canada, governments in the European Union, and govern-
23 ments in Latin America and the Caribbean, to impose tar-
24 geted sanctions on Venezuelan officials described in sub-
25 section (a).

1 (c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of State shall submit a strategy for carrying out
4 the activities described in subsection (a) to—

5 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
6 Senate;

7 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
8 Senate;

9 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
10 House of Representatives; and

11 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
12 House of Representatives.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
15 appropriated, to the International Narcotics Control
16 and Law Enforcement account, \$3,000,000 for fiscal
17 year 2019 to carry out the activities set forth in sub-
18 section (a) in accordance with this section.

19 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
21 under subparagraph (B), amounts appropriated
22 or otherwise made available pursuant to para-
23 graph (1) may not be obligated until 15 days
24 after the date on which the President provides

1 notice to the committees listed in subsection (c)
2 of intent to obligate such funds.

3 (B) WAIVER.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
5 State may waive the requirement under
6 subparagraph (A) if the Secretary of State
7 determines that such waiver is in the na-
8 tional interest of the United States.

9 (ii) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—If
10 a waiver is invoked under clause (i), the
11 President shall notify the committees listed
12 in subsection (c) of the intention to obli-
13 gate funds under this section as early as
14 practicable, but not later than 3 days after
15 taking the action to which such notification
16 requirement was applicable in the context
17 of the circumstances necessitating such
18 waiver.

19 (e) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The Assistant Sec-
20 retary of State for International Narcotics and Law En-
21 forcement Affairs may transfer funding to the Assistant
22 Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, as
23 necessary, to implement the strategy described in sub-
24 section (c).

1 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annu-
3 ally thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with
4 the Secretary of Treasury, shall brief the Committee on
5 Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Bank-
6 ing, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Com-
7 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,
8 and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of
9 Representatives that provides an assessment of the efforts
10 to strengthen sanctions capabilities and coordinate inter-
11 national sanctions in accordance with this section.

12 **SEC. 403. FINANCIAL SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELAN GOV-**
13 **ERNMENT DEBT.**

14 (a) FINDING.—Executive Order 13808 (82 Fed. Reg.
15 41155), which was signed on August 24, 2017, established
16 sanctions against the Government of Venezuela’s ability
17 to issue public debt.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a part-
20 nership, association, trust, joint venture, corpora-
21 tion, group, subgroup, or other organization.

22 (2) GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.—The term
23 “Government of Venezuela” means the Government
24 of Venezuela, any political subdivision, agency, or in-
25 strumentality of such government, including the

1 Central Bank of Venezuela and Petróleos de Ven-
2 ezuela, S.A., and any person owned or controlled by,
3 or acting for or on behalf of, such government.

4 (3) PERSON.—The term “person” means an in-
5 dividual or entity.

6 (4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
7 “United States person” means any—

8 (A) United States citizen;

9 (B) alien lawfully admitted for permanent
10 residence to the United States;

11 (C) entity organized under the laws of the
12 United States or any jurisdiction within the
13 United States (including a foreign branch of
14 any such entity); and

15 (D) any person physically located in the
16 United States.

17 (e) IN GENERAL.—The President may prohibit, in
18 the United States or by a United States person—

19 (1) any transaction related to, provision of fi-
20 nancing for, or other dealing in—

21 (A) debt instruments with a maturity of
22 greater than 90 days issued by Petróleos de
23 Venezuela, S.A., on or after the date of the en-
24 actment of this Act;

1 (B) debt instruments with a maturity of
2 greater than 30 days or equity issued by the
3 Government of Venezuela on or after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, excluding debt in-
5 struments issued by *Petróleos de Venezuela,*
6 *S.A.*, that are not covered under subparagraph
7 (A);

8 (C) bonds issued by the Government of
9 Venezuela before the date of the enactment of
10 this Act; or

11 (D) dividend payments or other distribu-
12 tions of profits to the Government of Venezuela
13 from any entity owned or controlled, directly or
14 indirectly, by the Government of Venezuela;

15 (2) the direct or indirect purchase of securities
16 from the Government of Venezuela, except for—

17 (A) securities qualifying as debt instru-
18 ments issued by *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A.*,
19 on or after the date of the enactment of this
20 Act that are not described in paragraph (1)(A);
21 and

22 (B) securities qualifying as debt instru-
23 ments issued by the Government of Venezuela
24 on or after the date of the enactment of this
25 Act that are not described in paragraph (1)(B);

1 (3) any transaction that evades or avoids, has
2 the purpose of evading or avoiding, causes a viola-
3 tion of, or attempts to violate a prohibition under
4 paragraph (1) or (2); and

5 (4) any conspiracy to violate a prohibition
6 under paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

7 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that the President should waive the prohibitions de-
9 scribed in subsection (c) if the related debt instruments,
10 bonds, or securities have been approved or ratified by the
11 democratically elected National Assembly of the
12 Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

13 (e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

14 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
15 ercise all authorities described in sections 203 and
16 205 of the International Emergency Economic Pow-
17 ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this
18 section.

19 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
20 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
21 violation of this section or any regulation, license, or
22 order issued to carry out this section shall be subject
23 to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c)
24 of section 206 of the International Emergency Eco-
25 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-

1 tent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-
2 scribed in subsection (a) of that section.

3 **SEC. 404. EXCEPTIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term
6 “agricultural commodity” has the meaning given
7 that term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade
8 Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

9 (2) GOOD.—The term “good” has the meaning
10 given that term in section 16 of the Export Adminis-
11 tration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4618) (as continued
12 in effect pursuant to the International Emergency
13 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

14 (3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term “medical de-
15 vice” has the meaning given the term “device” in
16 section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-
17 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

18 (4) MEDICINE.—The term “medicine” has the
19 meaning given the term “drug” in section 201 of the
20 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.
21 321).

22 (b) IN GENERAL.—The conduct or facilitation of a
23 transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food,
24 medicine, or medical devices to Venezuela or for the provi-
25 sion of humanitarian assistance to the people of Ven-

1 ezuela, including engaging in a financial transaction relat-
2 ing to humanitarian assistance or for humanitarian pur-
3 poses or transporting goods or services that are necessary
4 to carry out operations relating to humanitarian assist-
5 ance or humanitarian purposes, regardless of whether the
6 transactions or provision of humanitarian assistance origi-
7 nate in, or have a connection to, the United States, shall
8 be exempt from sanctions described in sections 402, 405,
9 406, and 501 of this Act, the Venezuela Defense of
10 Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law
11 113–278); and Executive Orders 13692 (50 U.S.C. 1701
12 note), 13808, 13827, and 13835.

13 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this Act, the
14 President may exercise all authorities provided under sec-
15 tions 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Eco-
16 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704).

17 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
18 may be construed to limit the authority of the President
19 under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act
20 (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

1 **TITLE V—CRYPTOCURRENCY**
2 **SANCTIONS AND ENSURING**
3 **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**
4 **UNITED STATES SANCTIONS**

5 **SEC. 501. SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA’S CRYPTOCURRENCY**
6 **AND THE PROVISION OF RELATED TECH-**
7 **NOLOGIES.**

8 (a) FINDING.—Executive Order 13827 (83 Fed. Reg.
9 12469), which was signed on March 19, 2018, established
10 sanctions against the Government of Venezuela’s ability
11 to issue a digital currency in an effort to circumvent
12 United States sanctions.

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a part-
15 nership, association, trust, joint venture, corpora-
16 tion, group, subgroup, or other organization.

17 (2) GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.—The term
18 “Government of Venezuela” means the Government
19 of Venezuela, any political subdivision, agency, or in-
20 strumentality of such government, including the
21 Central Bank of Venezuela and Petróleos de Ven-
22 ezuela, S.A., and any person owned or controlled by,
23 or acting for or on behalf of, such government.

24 (3) PERSON.—The term “person” means an in-
25 dividual or entity.

1 (4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
2 “United States person” means any—

3 (A) United States citizen;

4 (B) alien lawfully admitted for permanent
5 residence to the United States;

6 (C) entity organized under the laws of the
7 United States or any jurisdiction within the
8 United States (including a foreign branch of
9 any such entity); and

10 (D) any person physically located in the
11 United States.

12 (c) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—All transactions by a United
14 States person or within the United States that relate
15 to, provide financing for, provide software for, or
16 otherwise deal in any digital currency, digital coin,
17 or digital token, that was issued by, for, or on behalf
18 of the Government of Venezuela are prohibited be-
19 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibitions under
21 paragraph (1) shall apply to the extent provided by
22 statutes, or in regulations, orders, directives, or li-
23 censes that may be issued pursuant to this Act, and
24 notwithstanding any contract entered into or any li-

1 cense or permit granted before the date of the enact-
2 ment of this Act.

3 (3) PROHIBITIONS.—Any transaction that
4 evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or
5 avoiding, causes a violation of, or attempts to violate
6 any of the prohibitions set forth in this subsection
7 is prohibited. Any conspiracy formed to violate any
8 of the prohibitions set forth in this subsection is pro-
9 hibited.

10 (d) RULEMAKING.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
12 ury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is
13 authorized to take such actions, including promul-
14 gating rules and regulations, to implement this sec-
15 tion.

16 (2) DELEGATION.—The Secretary of the Treas-
17 ury may redelegate any of the functions described in
18 paragraph (1) to other officers and executive depart-
19 ments and agencies of the United States Govern-
20 ment. All agencies of the United States Government
21 shall take all appropriate measures within their au-
22 thority to carry out the provisions of this section.

1 **SEC. 502. REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF**
2 **CRYPTOCURRENCIES ON UNITED STATES**
3 **SANCTIONS.**

4 (a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “ap-
5 propriate congressional committees” means—

6 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
7 Senate;

8 (2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
9 Urban Affairs of the Senate;

10 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
11 House of Representatives; and

12 (4) the Committee on Financial Services of the
13 House of Representatives.

14 (b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180
15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary of State, after consultation with the Secretary of
17 the Treasury, the Chairman of the Securities and Ex-
18 change Commission, and the Chairman of the Commodity
19 Futures Trading Commission, shall submit a report to the
20 appropriate congressional committees that provides an as-
21 sessment on how digital currencies affect the effectiveness
22 of United States sanctions around the world.

23 (c) **ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.**—The report submitted
24 under subsection (b) shall—

25 (1) describe any global efforts, including efforts
26 by states, state-sponsored actors, and non-state-

1 sponsored actors, to utilize digital currencies to
2 evade or circumvent United States sanctions, includ-
3 ing through the direct or indirect use of products or
4 services of United States based technology, software,
5 or financial services firms; and

6 (2) include recommendations for new legislative
7 and regulatory measures needed to strengthen the
8 United States Government’s ability to prevent
9 states, state-sponsored actors, and non-state-spon-
10 sored actors from using digital currencies to evade
11 or circumvent United States sanctions, including
12 through the direct or indirect use of products or
13 services of United States based technology, software,
14 or financial services firms.

15 (d) FORM.—The report submitted under subsection
16 (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
17 clude a classified annex.

18 **TITLE VI—TERMINATION**

19 **SEC. 601. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS** 20 **AGAINST VENEZUELA.**

21 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 5(e) of the Venezuela De-
22 fense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014
23 (Public Law 113–278; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended
24 by striking “December 31, 2019” and inserting “Decem-
25 ber 31, 2025”.

1 (b) TERMINATION.—The requirement to impose sanc-
2 tions under this Act shall terminate on December 31,
3 2025.

○