

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2018

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

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## 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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