

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6426

To provide for measures to strengthen dialogue with the Russian people
and support Russian civil society, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2018

Mr. ESPAILLAT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Armed 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 for measures to strengthen dialogue with the
Russian people and support Russian civil society, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “CPR for Russian Civil
5 Society Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE WITH THE RUSSIAN**
2 **PEOPLE.**

3 (a) IMPROVED VISA SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR
4 RUSSIAN VISITORS.—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
6 in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security,
7 shall conduct a study on how to streamline and simplify
8 visa procedures for Russian students and persons involved
9 in professional and cultural exchanges in order to reduce
10 the overall visa processing period and facilitate people-to-
11 people exchanges. Such study shall examine average visa
12 wait times for successful visa applicants from Russia and
13 overall rejection rates of Russian nationals applying for
14 visas.

15 (b) ENHANCED SCREENING FOR PUTIN ALLIES.—In
16 conjunction with the study undertaken pursuant to sub-
17 section (a), the Secretary of State, in coordination with
18 the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of
19 the Treasury, shall develop enhanced visa screening proce-
20 dures for the following individuals:

21 (1) Persons identified as “the most significant
22 senior foreign political figures and oligarchs in the
23 Russian Federation”, as listed in a classified annex
24 to a report issued on January 29, 2018, pursuant to
25 section 241(a)(1) of the Countering America’s Ad-
26 versaries Through Sanctions Act, but who are not

1 already included in the list of specially designated
2 nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Of-
3 fice of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of
4 the Treasury.

5 (2) Persons who are not otherwise included in
6 the specially designated nationals list but who pro-
7 mote Russian President Vladimir Putin's policies of
8 repression, as determined by the Secretary of State.

9 (3) Persons who benefit from or act as agents
10 of Russian persons on the specially designated na-
11 tionals list.

12 (c) IMPROVED TRACKING OF EXCHANGE PRO-
13 GRAMS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the en-
14 actment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit
15 to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of
17 the Senate a report on current cultural exchange and edu-
18 cational programs with Russia. Such report shall include
19 the following:

20 (1) A list of existing programs funded by the
21 United States Government dedicated to United
22 States-Russia cultural and educational exchange and
23 research, including funding levels for each program.

24 (2) Information relating to funding of the pro-
25 grams specified in paragraph (1), including overall

1 history of such funding since 1991, relative to fund-
2 ing for other regions with such exchange and re-
3 search programs.

4 (d) STRATEGIC STABILITY.—

5 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 Defense, in concurrence with the Secretary of State,
8 shall submit to Congress a report on efforts to
9 strengthen strategic stability with Russia.

10 (2) ANNUAL MEETINGS.—The Secretary of De-
11 fense, in concurrence with the Secretary of State,
12 shall host an annual bilateral meeting, through
13 2023, with Russian counterparts in order to discuss
14 relevant issues of common interest, including main-
15 taining strategic stability and open lines for crisis
16 communications.

17 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT RUSSIAN CIVIL SOCIETY.**

18 (a) FIGHT PUTIN’S CENSORSHIP.—Not later than 90
19 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retary of State shall convene a meeting of senior leaders
21 of United States technology companies that sell, license,
22 or otherwise facilitate the installation of tools that allow
23 the Government of Russia to censor, harass, or suppress
24 the activities of civil society activists. Such meeting shall
25 focus on developing a common code of conduct to restrain

1 United States companies aiding and abetting the Govern-
2 ment of Russia's efforts to suppress Russian civil society,
3 fundamental freedoms in Russia, and efforts to expose
4 corruption on the part of the Government of Russia.

5 (b) INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS
6 FUND.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts oth-
8 erwise authorized to be appropriated for the Broad-
9 casting Board of Governors' International Broad-
10 casting Operations Fund, there is authorized to be
11 appropriated \$10,000,000 to expand Russian lan-
12 guage programming and to provide for the dissemi-
13 nation of accurate and independent information to
14 the Russian people through online media, radio, tele-
15 vision, cellular telephone, short message service, and
16 other communications. The Broadcasting Board of
17 Governors shall identify those countries that serve as
18 Russian vacation destinations and further target
19 United States international broadcasting and pro-
20 gramming activities towards such countries.

21 (2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—To achieve the objec-
22 tives described in paragraph (1), amounts in the
23 International Broadcasting Operations Fund re-
24 ferred to in such subparagraph may be used to de-
25 velop—

(A) additional transmission capability for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, including through additional shortwave and medium wave transmissions, satellite, and Internet mechanisms;

(B) additional proxy server capability and anti-censorship technologies to counter efforts by the Government of Russia to censor political and civil society activities, such as blocking of the Telegram app, and investigations into corruption on the part of the Government of Russia;

(C) technologies to counter efforts to block SMS text message exchange over cellular phone networks; and

(D) additional digital programs and operations for Voice of America in Russia.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO EXPANDED BROADCASTING IN COUNTRIES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.—Paragraph (1) of section 8(e) of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 8927(e); Public Law 118–272) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2020”.

SEC. 4. PUBLICIZE RUSSIAN MISDEEDS.

(a) DONBASS RECRUITMENT.—

1 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 State shall compile and publicly release a list of Rus-
4 sian-based persons, including organizations and their
5 executives, who recruited or otherwise facilitated the
6 transfer of Russian personnel for—

7 (A) the war in the Donbass; or

8 (B) targeting of civilians in Syria.

9 (2) VISA BAN.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
10 vision of law any persons identified in the list re-
11 quired under paragraph (1) shall be prohibited from
12 entry to the United States.

13 (b) REPORT ON ACTIONS BY RUSSIAN PROXIES.—
14 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
15 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Con-
16 gress a list of the following:

17 (1) Persons, including corporations with United
18 States subsidiaries, acting in Europe and the United
19 States as front companies or intermediaries of the
20 Government of Russia, and the executives of such
21 persons.

22 (2) Politicians serving or acting as proxies of
23 the Government of Russia.

24 (3) Russian media entities, including producers
25 and reporters, who—

1 (A) traffic in forgeries, fabrications, and
2 altered media products with intent to obfuscate
3 factual reporting; or

4 (B) instigate conflict and violence in Eu-
5 rope or the United States.

6 (4) Non-Russian persons that have knowingly
7 or negligently provided hardware or other forms of
8 assistance to the Government of Russia that has
9 furthered Russia's efforts to—

10 (A) filter online political content;

11 (B) disrupt cell phone and Internet com-
12 munications;

13 (C) monitor the online activities of Russian
14 citizens; or

15 (D) discriminate against or suppress the
16 activities of independent civil society institu-
17 tions.

18 (5) Each person that—

19 (A) receives subsidies from the Govern-
20 ment of Russia, thereby eroding market oppor-
21 tunities for private businesses;

22 (B) provides financial or material support
23 to Russia-backed forces actively involved in ag-
24 gression against Russia's neighbors;

1 (C) provides financial or material support
2 to propaganda outlets of the Government of
3 Russia that legitimize Russian aggression; or

4 (D) provides financing or material support
5 to political and nongovernmental persons or en-
6 tities, including the United Russia political
7 party, determined by the Secretary of State to
8 be engaged in the suppression of fundamental
9 freedoms in Russia.

10 (c) PREVIOUSLY LISTED ENTITIES.—The lists re-
11 quired under this section may also include entities already
12 identified in the list of specially designated nationals and
13 blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign As-
14 sets Control of the Department of the Treasury.

15 (d) FORM.—The lists required under this section
16 shall be unclassified but may be submitted in classified
17 form.

18 (e) PROVISION.—The Secretary of State shall trans-
19 mit the unclassified lists required under this section to the
20 heads of state of—

- 21 (1) NATO member states;
- 22 (2) Sweden;
- 23 (3) Finland; and
- 24 (4) Ireland.

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