To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to increase enforcement of certain violations and strengthen certain transparency requirements.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2017

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to increase enforcement of certain violations and strengthen certain transparency requirements.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Agent Lobbying Transparency Enforcement Act”.

SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

Section 8 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 618) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:
“(d) If the Attorney General determines that any person has engaged in any acts that constitute a violation of any provision of this Act, or regulations issued thereunder, or if any agent of a foreign principal fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Act or the regulations issued thereunder, or otherwise is in violation of this Act, the Attorney General may impose a civil fine of—

“(1) not less than $2,500 for the first offense;
“(2) not less than $5,000 for the second offense; and
“(3) any amount that the Attorney General determines is appropriate based on the severity and frequency of the offenses.”.

SEC. 3. FILING AND LABELING POLITICAL PROPAGANDA.

Section 4 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 614) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “or circulated among two or more persons” and inserting “to any other person”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH FILING.—It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States who is an agent of a foreign principal and required to register under the provisions of this Act to transmit or cause to be transmitted in the United States
mails or by any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce any informational materials for or in the interests of such foreign principal without filing with the Attorney General a statement that includes—

“(1) the name of each original recipient of the materials; and

“(2) the original date on which the materials will be distributed.”.