To require a report on the military coup in Burma, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CONNOLLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ________

A BILL

To require a report on the military coup in Burma, 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 Act may be cited as the “Protect Democracy in
5 Burma Act in 2021”.
6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
7 Congress finds the following:
8 (1) On March 14, 2005, the House of Rep-
lished the House Democracy Assistance Commission (later changed to the House Democracy Partnership, hereafter referred to as “HDP”) to work directly with parliaments around the world to support the development of effective, independent, and responsive legislative institutions.

(2) HDP approved a legislative strengthening partnership with Burma in 2016 and organized the first congressional delegation to meet with the new civilian-led government, led by State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, and civil society leaders in May 2016.

(3) On February 2, 2021, the U.S. Department of State assessed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma’s ruling party, and President Win Myint, the duly elected head of government, were deposed in a military coup on February 1, 2021.

(4) As part of the military coup, the Burmese military declared martial law, suspended the civilian-led government, and detained newly elected Members of Parliament in the capitol, Naypyidaw, thereby usurping the role of the democratically elected government and parliament.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) due to the Burmese military’s seizure of
government through the detention of State Coun-
sellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and
other government leaders, Burma is not represented
by a democratically-elected government;

(2) the inability of newly elected Members of
Parliament to begin their official mandate due to the
Burmese military’s actions directly threatens the
democratic trajectory of Burma’s Parliament, and
thereby the country;

(3) the will and determination of those duly-
elected Members of Parliament who are taking it
upon themselves to continue serving as representa-
tives of the people through alternative methods of
communicating and convening should be lauded; and

(4) by preventing the Parliament from com-
pleting its work, the Burmese military has rendered
impossible and effectively nullified the international
collaborative relationships that have supported and
strengthened the institution, including the Burmese
parliament’s partnership with HDP.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—
(1) engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN member states to—

(A) condemn the military coup in Burma;

(B) urge the unconditional release of detained democratically-elected leaders and civil society members; and

(C) support a return to Burma’s democratic transition; and

(2) instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to hold accountable those responsible for the military coup in Burma.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report on the military coup in Burma, including a description of efforts to implement the policy specified in section 4.