

Resolving Clause Amendment

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.**S. Res. 345**Expressing the sense of the Senate on the political situation
in Belarus.Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mrs. SHAHEEN

Viz:

1 Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing: “That the Senate—

3 (1) continues, on the first anniversary of the il-
4 legitimate presidential election in Belarus on August
5 9, 2020, to refuse to recognize Alyaksandr
6 Lukashenka as the legitimately elected leader of
7 Belarus;

8 (2) condemns Lukashenka’s ongoing crackdown
9 on members of the pro-democracy movement, senior
10 members of the Coordination Council, peaceful pro-
11 testers, employees from state-owned enterprises par-
12 ticipating in strikes, independent election observers,

1 independent journalists and bloggers, medical profes-
2 sionals, professors, teachers, athletes, and cultural
3 leaders;

4 (3) continues to call for the fulfillment by the
5 Government of Belarus of Belarus' freely under-
6 taken obligations as an Organization for Security
7 and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) member and
8 accept the OSCE's offer to facilitate a national dia-
9 logue and fully participate in the OSCE process;

10 (4) calls for new presidential and parliamentary
11 elections to be held in Belarus, conducted in a man-
12 ner that is free and fair according to OSCE stand-
13 ards and under the supervision of OSCE observers
14 and independent domestic observers;

15 (5) welcomes the United States Government's
16 close coordination with the European Union, the
17 United Kingdom, Canada, other allied and partner
18 countries, and international organizations to pro-
19 mote the principles of democracy, the rule of law,
20 and human rights in Belarus and encourages contin-
21 ued coordination to apply maximal pressure on the
22 Lukashenka regime;

23 (6) continues to call for the immediate release,
24 without preconditions, of all political prisoners in
25 Belarus;

1 (7) welcomes the recent release of Radio Free
2 Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) journalists Aleh
3 Hruzdilovich and Ina Studzinskaya and calls for
4 the unconditional release of all political prisoners
5 and journalists detained on dubious charges, includ-
6 ing opposition candidates Sergei Tikhanovsky and
7 Viktor Babaryka, pro-democracy activist Maria
8 Kalesnikava, and RFE/RL journalist Ihar Losik;

9 (8) condemns the forced diversion of Ryanair
10 Flight 4978 to arrest Raman Pratasevich and his
11 partner Sofia Sapega, which violated international
12 civil aviation law and risked the lives of innocent
13 passengers and crew, and calls for their immediate
14 unconditional release;

15 (9) commends the bravery of Belarusians who
16 have created innovative ways to protest
17 Lukashenka's autocracy and applauds the
18 Belarusian diaspora's efforts to maintain inter-
19 national focus on the deteriorating political situa-
20 tion;

21 (10) lauds the extraordinary support offered by
22 the Governments of Lithuania, Ukraine, and Poland
23 to support the people of Belarus, including support
24 for the political opposition, accommodation of polit-
25 ical refugees, and backing a free media;

1 (11) calls on the Lukashenka regime to imme-
2 diately halt exploiting and instrumentalizing mi-
3 grants and to stop directing individuals to the bor-
4 ders of Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland;

5 (12) welcomes the Executive order announced
6 on August 9, 2021, that applies additional sanctions
7 on the Lukashenka regime and urges the Biden Ad-
8 ministration to consider all economic, political, and
9 diplomatic tools at its disposal to support democracy
10 in Belarus;

11 (13) welcomes the European Union sanctions
12 imposed on the Lukashenka regime and urges the
13 United States to continue to coordinate additional
14 measures with the European Union; and

15 (14) emphasizes that the United States sup-
16 ports the people of Belarus in their quest to main-
17 tain their sovereignty, choose their own leadership,
18 and live in freedom, and recognizes the extensive ef-
19 forts of the Belarusian opposition to coordinate ef-
20 forts with the United States, the European Union,
21 the OSCE, and the United Nations to bring free and
22 fair elections to its people.