

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To support countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that maintain official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, to counter efforts by the People's Republic of China to coerce or pressure governments into breaking such ties, to deepen coordination with Taiwan on diplomatic, development, and economic engagement in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. RICKETTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To support countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that maintain official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, to counter efforts by the People's Republic of China to coerce or pressure governments into breaking such ties, to deepen coordination with Taiwan on diplomatic, development, and economic engagement in the Western Hemisphere, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States - Taiwan
3 Partnership in the Americas Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Taiwan is a democratic partner of the
7 United States, and countries that maintain ties with
8 Taiwan often share our Nation’s commitment to
9 transparency, good governance, and human rights.

10 (2) The People’s Republic of China has pres-
11 sured Taiwan’s remaining 7 diplomatic allies in
12 Latin America and the Caribbean to sever diplo-
13 matic relations with Taiwan by leveraging opaque
14 development deals and backroom pressure.

15 (3) The United States has an interest in ensur-
16 ing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
17 can make sovereign foreign policy decisions free
18 from coercion or financial manipulation by the Peo-
19 ple’s Republic of China.

20 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

21 It is the policy of the United States—

22 (1) to support countries in Latin America and
23 the Caribbean that maintain diplomatic relations
24 with Taiwan;

25 (2) to counter efforts by the People’s Republic
26 of China to coerce or pressure governments in the

1 region into breaking diplomatic ties with Taiwan;
2 and

3 (3) to deepen coordination with Taiwan on its
4 development and economic engagement in the West-
5 ern Hemisphere.

6 **SEC. 4. MONITORING THE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF THE**
7 **PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

8 (a) **INFRASTRUCTURE INFLUENCE RISK MECHA-**
9 **NISM.**—The Secretary of State shall establish a mecha-
10 nism to track and respond to infrastructure and develop-
11 ment projects by the People’s Republic of China in coun-
12 tries that maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

13 (b) **FUNCTIONS.**—The mechanism required under
14 subsection (a) shall—

15 (1) identify projects referred to in such sub-
16 section that carry strategic risks or involve non-
17 transparent financing;

18 (2) coordinate appropriate United States diplo-
19 matic or technical responses to such projects; and

20 (3) share relevant information with Congress
21 and with United States allies.

22 **SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

23 (a) **SEMIANNUAL STATUS REPORT.**—The Secretary
24 of State shall submit semiannual status reports to the
25 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the

1 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
2 tives regarding governments in Latin America that have
3 taken steps to discontinue diplomatic relations with Tai-
4 wan.

5 (b) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN.—If the Sec-
6 retary of State determines that a government in a country
7 referred to in subsection (a) is taking steps to terminate
8 diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the Secretary, not later
9 than 30 days after such determination, shall submit a re-
10 port to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate
11 and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
12 Representatives that includes a detailed plan to support
13 the maintenance of official diplomatic relations between
14 such government and Taiwan.

15 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
18 nually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Sec-
19 retary of State shall submit a report to the Com-
20 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
21 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives that includes—

23 (A) an assessment of the goals, invest-
24 ments, and interests of the People's Republic of

1 China in Latin America and the Caribbean that
2 maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan;

3 (B) an overview of the pressure tactics and
4 influence campaigns carried out by the People's
5 Republic of China in countries in Latin Amer-
6 ica and the Caribbean that maintain diplomatic
7 relations with Taiwan; and

8 (C) the actions taken by the Department
9 of State during the most recent 12-month pe-
10 riod to implement this Act by—

11 (i) supporting Taiwan's diplomatic
12 partners in Latin America and the Carib-
13 bean; and

14 (ii) countering the efforts of the Peo-
15 ple's Republic of China to isolate Taiwan
16 from its Latin American and Caribbean al-
17 lies.

18 (2) FORM.—Each report required under para-
19 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
20 but may include a classified annex.

21 **SEC. 6. TAIWAN-AMERICAS STRATEGIC COORDINATION.**

22 The Secretary of State should take steps to expand
23 United States coordination with countries in Latin Amer-
24 ica and the Caribbean with respect to Taiwan by—

- 1 (1) coordinating joint programming and tech-
2 nical cooperation with United States allies;
- 3 (2) aligning public diplomacy efforts; and
- 4 (3) encouraging collaboration between United
5 States embassies and Taiwan's representative offices
6 in Latin America and the Caribbean.