

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2684

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.

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 Mr. MERKLEY

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Taiwan is a democratic partner of the
9 United States, and countries that maintain ties with

1 Taiwan often share our Nation's commitment to
2 transparency, good governance, and human rights.

3 (2) The People's Republic of China has pres-
4 sured Taiwan's remaining 7 diplomatic allies in
5 Latin America and the Caribbean to sever diplo-
6 matic relations with Taiwan by leveraging opaque
7 development deals and backroom pressure.

8 (3) The United States has an interest in ensur-
9 ing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
10 can make sovereign foreign policy decisions free
11 from coercion or financial manipulation by the Peo-
12 ple's Republic of China.

13 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

14 It is the policy of the United States—

15 (1) to support countries in Latin America and
16 the Caribbean that maintain diplomatic relations
17 with Taiwan;

18 (2) to counter efforts by the People's Republic
19 of China to coerce or pressure governments in the
20 region into breaking diplomatic ties with Taiwan;
21 and

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

1 **SEC. 4. MONITORING THE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF THE**
2 **PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

3 (a) **INFRASTRUCTURE INFLUENCE RISK MECHA-**
4 **NISM.**—The Secretary of State shall establish a mecha-
5 nism to track and respond to infrastructure and develop-
6 ment projects by the People's Republic of China in coun-
7 tries that maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

8 (b) **FUNCTIONS.**—The mechanism required under
9 subsection (a) shall—

10 (1) identify projects referred to in such sub-
11 section that carry strategic risks or involve non-
12 transparent financing;

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

15 (3) share relevant information with Congress
16 and with United States allies.

17 **SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

18 (a) **SEMIANNUAL STATUS REPORT.**—The Secretary
19 of State shall submit semiannual status reports to the
20 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
21 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
22 tives regarding governments in Latin America that have
23 taken steps to discontinue diplomatic relations with Tai-
24 wan.

25 (b) **DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN.**—If the Sec-
26 retary of State determines that a government in a country

1 referred to in subsection (a) is taking steps to terminate
2 diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the Secretary, not later
3 than 30 days after such determination, shall submit a re-
4 port to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate
5 and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
6 Representatives that includes a detailed plan to support
7 the maintenance of official diplomatic relations between
8 such government and Taiwan.

9 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

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

17 (A) an assessment of the goals, invest-
18 ments, and interests of the People's Republic of
19 China in Latin America and the Caribbean that
20 maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan;

21 (B) an overview of the pressure tactics and
22 influence campaigns carried out by the People's
23 Republic of China in countries in Latin Amer-
24 ica and the Caribbean that maintain diplomatic
25 relations with Taiwan; and

1 (C) the actions taken by the Department
2 of State during the most recent 12-month pe-
3 riod to implement this Act by—

4 (i) supporting Taiwan’s diplomatic
5 partners in Latin America and the Carib-
6 bean; and

7 (ii) countering the efforts of the Peo-
8 ple’s Republic of China to isolate Taiwan
9 from its Latin American and Caribbean al-
10 lies.

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

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

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

18 (1) coordinating joint programming and tech-
19 nical cooperation with United States allies;

20 (2) aligning public diplomacy efforts; and

21 (3) encouraging collaboration between United
22 States embassies and Taiwan’s representative offices
23 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

1 **SEC. 7. BRIEFING ON EFFORTS TO SUPPORT TAIWAN'S RE-**
2 **SPONSE TO MALIGN INFLUENCE OPER-**
3 **ATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
6 in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal depart-
7 ments and agencies, shall brief the appropriate congres-
8 sional committees by—

9 (1) describing existing United States efforts
10 supporting the Taiwan government's efforts in coun-
11 tering the malign influence operations of the Govern-
12 ment of the People's Republic of China and the Chi-
13 nese Communist Party; and

14 (2) providing recommendations, developed in co-
15 ordination with the heads of relevant Federal agen-
16 cies and international partners, for identifying, and
17 providing targeted assistance to address, remaining
18 vulnerabilities in the Taiwan government's efforts to
19 counter such malign influence operations.

20 (b) BRIEFING ELEMENTS.—The briefing required
21 under subsection (a)(1) shall include the response of the
22 United States to the People's Republic of China malign
23 influence campaigns and cyber-intrusions targeting Tai-
24 wan, including—

25 (1) United States assistance in building the ca-
26 pacity of Taiwanese officials, media entities, and pri-

1 vate-sector entities to document and expose propa-
2 ganda and malign foreign influence supported by the
3 Government of the People’s Republic of China, the
4 Chinese Communist Party, or affiliated entities;

5 (2) United States assistance to the Taiwan gov-
6 ernment’s efforts to develop a whole-of-government
7 strategy to respond to malign influence operations,
8 including election interference;

9 (3) exchanges and other technical assistance
10 through which the United States has collaborated
11 with Taiwan to strengthen Taiwan’s legal system’s
12 ability to respond to malign influence operations;
13 and

14 (4) the extent to which like-minded govern-
15 ments have collaborated with the Taiwan govern-
16 ment on ways to address malign influence operations
17 supported by the Government of the People’s Repub-
18 lic of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

19 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
21 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations
23 of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
24 of the House of Representatives.

1 (2) MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS.—The
2 term “malign influence operations” means the co-
3 ordinated and often concealed application of media
4 manipulation, economic coercion, cyber-intrusions,
5 targeted investments, and academic censorship that
6 is intended—

7 (A)(i) to corrupt businesses and political
8 and nongovernmental institutions;

9 (ii) to interfere in democratic elections;
10 and

11 (iii) to encourage self-censorship of views
12 at odds with those of the Government of the
13 People’s Republic of China or the Chinese Com-
14 munist Party;

15 (B) to foster attitudes, behavior, decisions,
16 or outcomes in Taiwan and elsewhere that sup-
17 port the interests of the Government of the
18 People’s Republic of China or the Chinese Com-
19 munist Party; or

20 (C) to undermine the administrative activi-
21 ties or daily operations of the Taiwan govern-
22 ment.

1 **SEC. 8. BRIEFING ON DETERRENCE IN THE TAIWAN**
2 **STRAIT.**

3 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination
5 with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agen-
6 cies, shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of
7 the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
8 House of Representatives by providing—

9 (1) an assessment of the military posture of
10 Taiwan and the United States as it specifically per-
11 tains to the deterrence of military conflict and con-
12 flict readiness in the Taiwan Strait; and

13 (2) an analysis of whether current Taiwan and
14 United States policies sufficiently deter the People's
15 Republic of China's efforts to determine the future
16 of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, taking into
17 account the changing military balance in the Taiwan
18 Strait.