

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5428

To impose sanctions on certain persons responsible for the March 12, 2018, attack on Sergei and Yulia Skripal, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2018

Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. TURNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To impose sanctions on certain persons responsible for the March 12, 2018, attack on Sergei and Yulia Skripal, 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 “Stand with UK against
5 Russia Violations Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On March 4, 2018, Sergei V. Skripal, and
2 his daughter, Yulia Skripal, were found unconscious
3 on a park bench in Salisbury, England.

4 (2) British Prime Minister Theresa May an-
5 nounced on March 12, 2018, that the poison used in
6 the attack was Novichok, a military-grade nerve
7 agent developed by Soviet scientists for use on North
8 Atlantic Treaty Organization troops, and that Rus-
9 sia was responsible for the attack.

10 (3) On March 15, 2018, the United Kingdom,
11 France, and Germany issued a joint statement hold-
12 ing the Government of Russia responsible for the
13 poisoning and characterizing the attack as “an as-
14 sault on UK sovereignty”.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17 (1) The attempts of the Government of Russia
18 to commit murders on British soil are unconscion-
19 able and violate international law.

20 (2) The United States stands in strong soli-
21 darity with the British government and its people as
22 they respond to this violation.

23 (3) Russian aggression must be met with
24 strength and resolve, including through sanctions to

1 deter future Russian attacks on dissidents, expatri-
2 ates, and democratic activists.

3 **SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO RUS-**
4 **SIAN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR MARCH 12**
5 **ATTACK.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall im-
8 pose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect
9 to any person that the President determines—

10 (1) knowingly engaged in, provided material
11 support to, worked on behalf of, or acted as an
12 agent or instrumentality of any person who per-
13 petrated the attack against Sergei Skripal and Yulia
14 Skripal on March 12, 2018; or

15 (2) is an officer, employee, or agent of the Gov-
16 ernment of Russia and knowingly, on or after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, materially as-
18 sisted, worked on behalf of, or acted as an agent or
19 instrumentality of the Russian Government in the
20 murder, attempted murder, or assault committed
21 outside of Russia against any expatriate, dissident,
22 or foreign national.

23 (b) CONCURRENT REPORT.—The President shall
24 submit to Congress a report, concurrent with the imposi-
25 tion of any sanction under subsection (a), that lists each

1 person determined to have engaged in the conduct result-
2 ing in such sanction.

3 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
4 scribed in this paragraph are the sanctions described in
5 section 224(b) of the Countering America’s Adversaries
6 Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9524(b)).

7 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO**
8 **NEW RUSSIAN SOVEREIGN DEBT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
10 date of the imposition of a sanction pursuant to section
11 4(a)(2), the President shall—

12 (1) issue regulations prohibiting United States
13 persons from engaging in transactions with, pro-
14 viding financing for, or in any other way dealing in
15 Russian sovereign debt that is issued on or after the
16 date that is 180 days after such date of imposition
17 of sanctions; and

18 (2) exercise all powers granted to the President
19 by the International Emergency Economic Powers
20 Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 13 et seq.) to the extent nec-
21 essary to block and prohibit all transactions in all
22 property and interests in property of one or more of
23 the financial institutions listed in subsection (c) if
24 such property and interests in property are in the
25 United States, come within the United States, or are

1 or come within the possession or control of a United
2 States person.

3 (b) RUSSIAN SOVEREIGN DEBT DEFINED.—For pur-
4 poses of this section, the term “Russian sovereign debt”
5 means—

6 (1) bonds issued by the Russian Central Bank,
7 the Russian National Wealth Fund, the Russian
8 Federal Treasury, or agents or affiliates of any such
9 institution, with a maturity of more than 14 days;

10 (2) new foreign exchange swap agreements with
11 the Russian Central Bank, the Russian National
12 Wealth Fund, or the Russian Federal Treasury, the
13 duration of which agreement is longer than 14 days;
14 and

15 (3) any other financial instrument, the duration
16 or maturity of which is more than 14 days, that—

17 (A) the President determines represents
18 the sovereign debt of Russia; or

19 (B) is issued by a bank listed in subsection
20 (c).

21 (c) RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The finan-
22 cial institutions listed in this subsection are the following:

23 (1) Sberbank.

24 (2) VTB Bank.

25 (3) Gazprombank.

1 (4) Bank of Moscow.

2 (5) Rosselkhozbank.

3 (6) Promsvyazbank.

4 (7) Vnesheconombank.

5 (d) REQUIREMENT TO PROMPTLY PUBLISH GUID-
6 ANCE.—The President shall concurrently publish guidance
7 on the implementation of the regulations issued pursuant
8 to subsection (a).

9 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES; TERMINATION.**

10 (a) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise
11 all authorities provided to the President under sections
12 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic
13 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this
14 Act.

15 (b) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to
16 violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of section
17 4 or 5, or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry
18 out such sections, shall be subject to the penalties set forth
19 in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
20 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
21 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an
22 unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

23 (c) TERMINATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may termi-
25 nate the application of a sanction under section 4 or

1 section 5(a)(2) if the President submits to Congress
2 a determination that officers, employees, and agents
3 of the Government of Russia no longer engage in the
4 conduct described in section 4(a)(2).

5 (2) WAIVER.—The President may, on or after
6 the date on which the President submits the deter-
7 mination described in paragraph (1), waive the pro-
8 hibition imposed pursuant to section 5(a)(1) with re-
9 spect to Russian sovereign debt (as defined in such
10 section) issued on or after such date if the President
11 concurrently submits to Congress a notification that
12 includes a justification of the basis for waiving such
13 prohibition.

14 **SEC. 7. UNITED STATES PERSON DEFINED.**

15 In this Act, the term “United States person”
16 means—

17 (1) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully
18 admitted for permanent residence to the United
19 States; and

20 (2) an entity organized under the laws of the
21 United States or of any jurisdiction within the
22 United States, including a foreign branch of such an
23 entity.

○