

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2303

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lai Chee ying (“Jimmy Lai”), Law Wai kwong (“Ryan Law”), Cheung Kim hung, Chow Tat kuen (“Royston Chow”), Chan Pui man, Cheung Chi wai, Yeung Ching kee (“Li Ping”), and all the men and women who worked for Apple Daily in recognition of their commitment to freedom and democracy in Hong Kong in the face of the tyranny of the Chinese Communist Party.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2021

Mr. SASSE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lai Chee ying (“Jimmy Lai”), Law Wai kwong (“Ryan Law”), Cheung Kim hung, Chow Tat kuen (“Royston Chow”), Chan Pui man, Cheung Chi wai, Yeung Ching kee (“Li Ping”), and all the men and women who worked for Apple Daily in recognition of their commitment to freedom and democracy in Hong Kong in the face of the tyranny of the Chinese Communist Party.

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 “Democracy in Hong
3 Kong Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Lai Chee ying (“Jimmy Lai”) is a Hong
7 Kong entrepreneur, pro-democracy activist and
8 founder of Giordano, an Asian clothing retainer,
9 Next Digital, a Hong Kong-listed media company,
10 and the popular newspaper Apple Daily.

11 (2) Lai is a prominent critic of the Chinese
12 Communist Party and was a leader of Hong Kong’s
13 2014 Umbrella Movement and has been accused and
14 tried for his involvement in the 2019–2020 pro-de-
15 mocracy movement. Lai has been unjustly arrested
16 on multiple occasions for his criticism of the Chinese
17 Communist Party.

18 (3) On August 10, 2020, Lai was arrested on
19 suspicion of “collaborating with foreign forces” and
20 the offices of Apple Daily were raided by Hong
21 Kong police officers. The charges were brought forth
22 under the Law of the People’s Republic of China on
23 Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong
24 Special Administrative Region enacted by the Chi-
25 nese Communist Party on June 30, 2020.

1 (4) In December 2020, Lai was awarded the
2 “Freedom of Press Award” by Reporters Without
3 Borders for his role in founding Apple Daily.

4 (5) On April 16, 2021, after a sham trial, Lai
5 was sentenced to 14 months in prison for his sup-
6 port of democracy in Hong Kong.

7 (6) On June 17, 2021, police again raided
8 Apple Daily’s news room, seized journalists’ com-
9 puters, arrested top editors, and froze \$2,300,000 of
10 the paper’s assets. Among the arrested were Next’s
11 chief executive, Cheung Kim hung, and Chow Tat
12 kuen (“Royston Chow”), its chief operating officer,
13 Law Wai kwong (“Ryan Law”), Apple Daily’s chief
14 editor, Cheung Chi wai, the chief executive editor,
15 and Chan Pui man, deputy chief editor.

16 (7) On June 23, 2021, Apple Daily announced
17 its forced closure due to the current circumstances
18 in Hong Kong. Apple Daily’s lead opinion writer,
19 Yeung Ching kee, who publishes under the name Li
20 Ping was also arrested.

21 (8) Even amidst the raids and arrests, Apple
22 Daily heroically continued to report on the police op-
23 eration with reporters writing on their phones after
24 their computers were seized.

1 (9) Apple Daily has, at great cost, dem-
 2 onstrated the importance of maintaining freedom of
 3 speech and of the press in spite of the vicious
 4 authoritarianism of the Chinese Communist Party.

5 (10) The reporters, journalists, editors, and em-
 6 ployees at both Apple Daily and Next Digital have
 7 exhibited courage and determination in the face of
 8 the Chinese Communist Party's tyranny and deserve
 9 to be commended by the people of the United States
 10 for their fight for freedom and truth.

11 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

12 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
 13 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
 14 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
 15 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
 16 medal of appropriate design to Lai Chee ying (“Jimmy
 17 Lai”), Law Wai kwong (“Ryan Law”), Cheung Kim hung,
 18 Chow Tat kuen (“Royston Chow”), Chan Pui man,
 19 Cheung Chi wai, Yeung Ching kee (“Li Ping”), and all
 20 the men and women who worked for Apple Daily in rec-
 21 ognition of their commitment to freedom and democracy
 22 in Hong Kong in the face of the tyranny of the Chinese
 23 Communist Party.

24 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
 25 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary

1 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
2 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
3 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
4 retary.

5 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

6 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
7 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
8 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
9 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
10 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

11 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

12 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are National med-
13 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
14 Code.

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
16 **SALE.**

17 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is
18 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
19 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
20 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
21 this Act.

22 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
23 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section

- 1 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

