

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 621

To prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

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## A BILL

To prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, 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 “Banning Operations  
5 and Leases with the Illegitimate Venezuelan Authoritarian  
6 Regime Act” or the “BOLIVAR Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH PERSONS**  
2 **THAT HAVE BUSINESS OPERATIONS WITH**  
3 **THE MADURO REGIME.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided under sub-  
5 sections (c), (d), and (e), the head of an executive agency  
6 may not enter into a contract for the procurement of  
7 goods or services with any person that has business oper-  
8 ations with an authority of the government of Venezuela  
9 that is not recognized as the legitimate government of  
10 Venezuela by the United States Government.

11 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition under sub-  
13 section (a) does not apply to a contract that the  
14 head of an executive agency and the Secretary of  
15 State jointly determine—

16 (A) is necessary—

17 (i) for purposes of providing humani-  
18 tarian assistance to the people of Ven-  
19 ezuela;

20 (ii) for purposes of providing disaster  
21 relief and other urgent life-saving meas-  
22 ures; or

23 (iii) to carry out noncombatant evacu-  
24 ations; or

25 (B) is vital to the national security inter-  
26 ests of the United States.

1           (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The head  
2 of an executive agency shall notify each appropriate  
3 congressional committee, the Committee on Foreign  
4 Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the  
5 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate of  
6 any contract entered into on the basis of an excep-  
7 tion provided for under paragraph (1).

8           (c) OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL LI-  
9 CENSES.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not  
10 apply to a person that has a valid license to operate in  
11 Venezuela issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control  
12 of the Department of the Treasury.

13           (d) AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN VEN-  
14 EZUELA.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not  
15 apply to contracts related to the operation and mainte-  
16 nance of the United States Government’s consular offices  
17 and diplomatic posts in Venezuela.

18           (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19           (1) BUSINESS OPERATIONS.—The term “busi-  
20 ness operations” means engaging in commerce in  
21 any form, including acquiring, developing, maintain-  
22 ing, owning, selling, possessing, leasing, or operating  
23 equipment, facilities, personnel, products, services,  
24 personal property, real property, or any other appa-  
25 ratus of business or commerce.

1           (2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive  
2 agency” has the meaning given the term in section  
3 133 of title 41, United States Code.

4           (3) GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.—The term  
5 “government of Venezuela” includes the government  
6 of any political subdivision of Venezuela, and any  
7 agency or instrumentality of the Government of Ven-  
8 ezuela. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
9 “agency or instrumentality of the Government of  
10 Venezuela” means an agency or instrumentality of a  
11 foreign state as defined in section 1603(b) of title  
12 28, United States Code, with each reference in such  
13 section to “a foreign state” deemed to be a reference  
14 to “Venezuela”.

15           (4) PERSON.—The term “person” means—

16           (A) a natural person, corporation, com-  
17 pany, business association, partnership, society,  
18 trust, or any other nongovernmental entity, or-  
19 ganization, or group;

20           (B) any governmental entity or instrumen-  
21 tality of a government, including a multilateral  
22 development institution (as defined in section  
23 1701(c)(3) of the International Financial Insti-  
24 tutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(3))); and

1           (C) any successor, subunit, parent entity,  
2           or subsidiary of, or any entity under common  
3           ownership or control with, any entity described  
4           in subparagraph (A) or (B).

5           (f) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply with re-  
6           spect to any contract entered into on or after the date  
7           of the enactment of this section.

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