

## HRES 681

Recognizing the ongoing crackdown on freedom of expression and human rights in Belarus a year after the 2020 election, calling for an end to Alyaksandr Lukashenka's continued campaign of repression against peaceful protesters, journalists, cultural workers, human rights defenders, trade union activists, political activists, and government critics, and expressing solidarity with the Belarusian people.

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Sep 24, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber. (Oct 12, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/681>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (14 total)

| Cosponsor                                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]              | D · MO        |      | Sep 24, 2021 |
| Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]         | R · PA        |      | Sep 24, 2021 |
| Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]               | R · NC        |      | Sep 24, 2021 |
| Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]                   | R · SC        |      | Sep 24, 2021 |
| Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]                 | D · OH        |      | Sep 27, 2021 |
| Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]           | D · MA        |      | Oct 8, 2021  |
| Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]           | D · RI        |      | Dec 7, 2021  |
| Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]          | D · VA        |      | Dec 8, 2021  |
| Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]                   | D · CA        |      | Feb 18, 2022 |
| Rep. Phillips, Dean [D-MN-3]                | D · MN        |      | Feb 18, 2022 |
| Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]                   | D · NV        |      | Feb 25, 2022 |
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC        |      | Mar 7, 2022  |
| Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]                 | D · MD        |      | Mar 8, 2022  |
| Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]                | D · CA        |      | Mar 8, 2022  |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                 | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Foreign Affairs Committee | House   | Referred to | Oct 12, 2021 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

## Related Bills

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No related bills are listed.

### Summary (as of Sep 24, 2021)

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This resolution condemns Belarusian authorities' assault on freedom of expression and human rights in Belarus since the August 2020 presidential election.

The resolution also calls for the immediate release of journalists, cultural figures, and dissidents currently held as political prisoners in Belarus.

Furthermore, the resolution calls on the Biden Administration to

- support initiatives to assist survivors of torture and other human rights violations from Belarus, including by working with allies in the region to grant them protection and providing avenues for them and their families to access safety in the United States;
- examine all available accountability options for violators of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and
- demand that Belarus cooperate fully with international partners and organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Finally, the resolution supports the aspirations of the Belarusian people in their struggle for freedom and human rights.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Oct 12, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber.
- **Sep 24, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 24, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.