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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for increased defense cooperation between the United States and
Moldova.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Ross introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To provide for increased defense cooperation between the
United States and Moldova.

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 “United States—
5 Moldova Defense Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) Moldova is a close partner in the European
2 region and the United States should remain com-
3 mitted to supporting its security and prosperity;

4 (2) Moldova's military relies on outdated Soviet
5 era equipment that needs to be replaced;

6 (3) senior Moldovan defense officials have stat-
7 ed they need \$275 million to modernize Moldova's
8 armed forces;

9 (4) the United States should increase and deep-
10 en efforts to partner with and support the mod-
11 ernization of the Moldovan military;

12 (5) it is in the interest of the United States
13 that Moldova continues to transition its military
14 equipment away from Russian-produced platforms
15 and weapons systems through the European Recapi-
16 talization Incentive Program;

17 (6) the strategic partnership that the United
18 States and Moldova have established over 30 years
19 is mutually beneficial to the national security of both
20 countries;

21 (7) the United States needs to support
22 Moldova's reform process consisting of a transition
23 from conscription to an all-volunteer/professional
24 force, modernizing equipment from Soviet to West-
25 ern systems, creating a "mobile, modular, flexible

1 and function army,” according to the 2022 state-
2 ment by Defense Minister Antolie Nosatii, and em-
3 phasizing air defense capabilities; and

4 (8) the United States should continue to invest
5 in International Military Education and Training
6 programs in Moldova.

7 **SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR THE EUROPEAN RECAPITALIZATION**
8 **INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent feasible,
10 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the
11 European Recapitalization Incentive Program should be
12 considered for Moldova as appropriate to assist the coun-
13 try in meeting its defense needs and transitioning away
14 from Russian-produced military equipment.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
17 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
18 port that provides a full accounting of all funds distributed
19 under the European Recapitalization Incentive Program,
20 including—

21 (1) a description of how the funds were used in
22 Moldova; and

23 (2) an accounting of remaining equipment in
24 Moldova that was provided by the then-Soviet Union
25 or Russian Federation.

1 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

2 For purposes of subsection (b), the term “appropriate con-
3 gressional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
5 Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee
6 on Appropriations of the Senate; and

7 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
8 Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee
9 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

10 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON LOAN PROGRAM.**

11 It is the sense of Congress that, as appropriate, the
12 United States Government should provide direct loans to
13 Moldova for the procurement of defense articles, defense
14 services, and design and construction services pursuant to
15 the authority of section 23 of the Arms Export Control
16 Act (22 U.S.C. 2763) to support the further development
17 of Moldova’s military forces.

18 **SEC. 5. IMET COOPERATION WITH MOLDOVA.**

19 For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, there
20 is authorized \$1,000,000 for International Military Edu-
21 cation and Training assistance for Moldova, which may
22 be made available for the following purposes:

23 (1) Training of future leaders.

24 (2) Fostering a better understanding of the
25 United States.

1 (3) Establishing a rapport between the United
2 States Armed Forces and Moldova's military to
3 build partnerships for the future.

4 (4) Enhancement of interoperability and capa-
5 bilities for joint operations.

6 (5) Focusing on professional military education,
7 civilian control of the military, and protection of
8 human rights.