

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2583
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title VIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 8** __. **DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN THE**
2 **RUSSIAN FEDERATION.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) the Government of the Russian Federation
5 should—

6 (A) safeguard human rights, including
7 freedoms of speech, assembly, and association;
8 and

9 (B) take all necessary steps to ensure that
10 the upcoming parliamentary and presidential
11 elections meet international electoral standards
12 and are universal, free, equal, fair, secret,
13 transparent, and accountable and to—

14 (i) allow credible, independent elec-
15 toral observers, both domestic and inter-
16 national for both long-term and short-term
17 observation missions, unrestricted and
18 timely access to complete their work;

19 (ii) take steps to ensure that the text
20 and implementation of election law in the

1 Russian Federation is consistent with
2 international electoral standards;

3 (iii) provide access to the ballot for all
4 political parties and candidates by remov-
5 ing unreasonable barriers to political party
6 registration and to candidate acceptance
7 on electoral ballots and by ensuring fair,
8 impartial, and timely consideration of all
9 political party registration applications;
10 and

11 (iv) undertake an impartial, inde-
12 pendent investigation of the procedures
13 used to deny the party registration applica-
14 tion of the Party of the People's Freedom
15 (PARNAS) to ensure that the procedures
16 used were consistent with international
17 standards; and

18 (2) the President and the Secretary of State
19 should make respect for democracy, the rule of law,
20 and human rights a priority in the ongoing relation-
21 ship and dialogue between the Governments of the
22 United States and the Russian Federation, in par-
23 ticular in light of the upcoming parliamentary and
24 presidential elections in Russia.

