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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require senior Government officials and their family members to divest foreign financial interests, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOLDEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require senior Government officials and their family members to divest foreign financial interests, 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 “Stop Foreign Payoffs  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIVESTITURE OF FOREIGN FINANCIAL INTERESTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Ethics in Government Act of  
3 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding after title  
4 V the following:

5 **“TITLE VI—LIMITATION ON**  
6 **FOREIGN FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

7 **“§ 601. Limitation on foreign financial interests**

8 “(a) DIVESTITURE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered individual may  
10 not hold any foreign financial interest, and shall di-  
11 vest of any such interest by—

12 “(A) converting each such interest to cash  
13 or other investment; or

14 “(B) placing each such interest in a quali-  
15 fied blind trust as defined in section 102(f)(3)  
16 or a diversified trust under section  
17 102(f)(4)(B).

18 “(2) APPLICATION.—

19 “(A) Not later than 30 days after the date  
20 regulations are promulgated to carry out this  
21 section, a covered individual holding any foreign  
22 financial interest on such date shall divest of  
23 such interest pursuant to paragraph (1).

24 “(B) Within 30 days that an individual as-  
25 sumes an office described under subparagraph  
26 (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (d)(1), such indi-

1           vidual, and any applicable individual described  
2           under subparagraph (D) of such subsection,  
3           shall divest of such interest pursuant to para-  
4           graph (1).

5           “(b) PROHIBITION ON RECEIVING FOREIGN PAY-  
6 MENTS.—A covered individual may not receive any wage,  
7 salary, dividend, or any other payment from any foreign  
8 business.

9           “(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may  
11 bring a civil action in any appropriate United States  
12 district court against any individual who knowingly  
13 and willfully violates the provisions of this section.  
14 The court in which such action is brought may as-  
15 sess against such individual a civil penalty in any  
16 amount not to exceed twice the value of any foreign  
17 financial interest held, or any unlawfully foreign  
18 payment received, in violation of this section.

19           “(2) NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS.—The Attorney  
20 General may bring a civil action in any appropriate  
21 United States district court against any individual  
22 who negligently violates the provisions of this sec-  
23 tion. The court in which such action is brought may  
24 assess against such individual a civil penalty in any  
25 amount not to exceed the value of any foreign finan-

1           cial interest held, or any unlawfully foreign payment  
2           received, in violation of this section.

3           “(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

4                   “(1) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

5                           “(A) the President;

6                           “(B) a Member of Congress (as that term  
7                   is defined in section 2106 of title 5, United  
8                   States Code);

9                           “(C) any cabinet-level position within the  
10                   Executive branch of Government, including the  
11                   head of any Executive department (as that  
12                   term is defined in section 101 of title 5, United  
13                   States Code); and

14                           “(D) the spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law,  
15                   or daughter-in-law of any individual described  
16                   in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C);

17                   “(2) the term ‘foreign business’ means a part-  
18                   nership, association, corporation, organization, or  
19                   other combination of persons organized under the  
20                   laws of or having its principal place of business in  
21                   a foreign country; and

22                   “(3) the term ‘foreign financial interest’ means  
23                   any financial interest in a foreign business, including  
24                   a stock, ownership interest, bond, or debt.”.

1           (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after  
2 the date of enactment of this Act—

3           (1) with respect to covered individuals (as that  
4 term is described in subsection (d)(1) of section 601  
5 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as added  
6 subsection (a)) in the executive branch (including  
7 the Vice President), the Director of the Office of  
8 Government Ethics shall promulgate regulations to  
9 carry out such section 601; and

10          (2) with respect to covered individuals in the  
11 legislative branch, the Committee on Ethics of the  
12 House of Representatives and the Select Committee  
13 on Ethics of the Senate shall promulgate regulations  
14 to carry out such section 601.