

APPEAL Regarding Global Press Freedom Act

Dear Presidents, Officers, and Directors of Polish American organizations
and all fellow Polish Americans,

On February 3, 2021, Senators Brian Schatz of Hawaii and Todd Young of Indiana (a co-sponsor) introduced Bill S. 204, known as the "Global Press Freedom Act." The Bill recognizes free and independent press as an essential aspect of the security of the United States. The Act seeks to establish the Office of Press Freedom and create a press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center.

According to the proposed legislation, the foreign governments and foreign organizations, which weaken the free press protections, are considered a national security threat to the United States. The Bill states that Poland is among the most severe violators of freedom of the press and, lately, has suffered the most significant declines in press freedom. The proposed legislation also incorrectly claims that Poland has detained journalists reporting on Covid19. The above allegations are untrue and entirely without merit.

We consider the accusations mentioned above dishonest, deceitful, and politically motivated. The inclusion of them in the proposed legislation can be viewed, in our opinion, as a prime example of the anti-Polish attitudes present in U.S. politics and media. The accusations against Poland included in the Bill do not withstand the most rudimentary fact-checking. Therefore, we have to conclude that they have been included in the Bill to support the specific anti-Polish agenda evident in several of Congress's recent acts.

We believe that untrue, politically motivated accusations made against Poland hurt Poland's image and affect the good name of us, Polish Americans. We do think that such intentional and fraudulent claims amount to hate speech. We will consider the support of the proposed Bill's deceitful language by any Congress member(s) as hostile to Poland and Polish Americans.

We have drafted the attached letter to the U.S. Congress members demanding that the untrue and seemingly intentionally offensive information about Poland be removed from the Bill. We ask you to sign the attached letter on behalf of your organization.

Sincerely,

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