

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 598

To support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. KINZINGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial
integrity of Georgia, 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 AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Georgia Support Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. United States policy.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS

- Sec. 101. United States-Georgia security assistance.
Sec. 102. United States cybersecurity cooperation with Georgia.
Sec. 103. Enhanced assistance to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda.
Sec. 104. Sense of Congress on free trade agreement with Georgia.

TITLE II—SANCTIONS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 201. Imposition of sanctions on persons complicit in or responsible for serious human rights abuses, including right to life in Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia occupied by Russia.

1 SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY.

2 It is the policy of the United States to—

3 (1) support continued development of demo-
4 cratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elec-
5 tions, public sector transparency and accountability,
6 the rule of law, and anticorruption efforts;

7 (2) support Georgia's sovereignty, independ-
8 ence, and territorial integrity within its internation-
9 ally recognized borders;

10 (3) support the right of the people of Georgia
11 to freely determine their future and make inde-
12 pendent and sovereign choices on foreign and secu-
13 rity policy, including regarding their country's rela-
14 tionship with other nations and international organi-
15 zations, without interference, intimidation, or coer-
16 cion by other countries;

17 (4) support Georgia's Euro-Atlantic and Euro-
18 pean integration;

1 (5) not recognize territorial changes effected by
2 force, including the illegal invasions and occupations
3 of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-
4 gion/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation;

5 (6) condemn ongoing detentions, kidnappings,
6 and other human rights violations committed in the
7 Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-
8 gion/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by the Russian
9 Federation, including the recent killings of Georgian
10 citizens Archil Tatumashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, and
11 Davit Basharuli; and

12 (7) support peaceful conflict resolution in Geor-
13 gia, including by urging the Russian Federation to
14 fully implement the European Union-mediated
15 ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008, and sup-
16 porting the establishment of international security
17 mechanisms in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia
18 and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia and the safe
19 and dignified return of internally displaced persons
20 (IDPs) and refugees, all of which are important for
21 lasting peace and security on the ground.

22 **TITLE I—ASSISTANCE**

23 **PROVISIONS**

24 **SEC. 101. UNITED STATES-GEORGIA SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**

25 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In fiscal year 2018, the United States pro-
2 vided Georgia with \$2,200,000 in assistance under
3 chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
4 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.; relating to inter-
5 national military education and training) and
6 \$35,000,000 in assistance under section 23 of the
7 Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating
8 to the Foreign Military Financing Program).

9 (2) Georgia has been a longstanding NATO-as-
10 pirant country.

11 (3) Georgia has contributed substantially to
12 Euro-Atlantic peace and security through participa-
13 tion in the International Security Assistance Force
14 (ISAF) and Resolute Support Missions in Afghani-
15 stan as one of the largest troop contributors.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that United States assistance to Georgia under
18 chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
19 and section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act should
20 be increased.

21 (c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
22 of the United States, in consultation with Georgia, to en-
23 hance Georgia’s deterrence, resilience, and self-defense, in-
24 cluding through appropriate assistance to improve the ca-
25 pabilities of Georgia’s armed forces.

1 (d) REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GEOR-
2 GIA.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of
6 other appropriate United States departments and
7 agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign
8 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-
10 port reviewing United States security assistance to
11 Georgia.

12 (2) COMPONENTS.—The report required under
13 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

14 (A) A detailed review of all United States
15 security assistance to Georgia from fiscal year
16 2008 to the date of the submission of such re-
17 port.

18 (B) An assessment of threats to Georgian
19 independence, sovereignty, and territorial integ-
20 rity.

21 (C) An assessment of Georgia's capabilities
22 to defend itself, including a five-year strategy to
23 enhance Georgia's deterrence, resilience, and
24 self-defense capabilities.

1 (3) FORM.—The report required under para-
2 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
3 may contain a classified annex.

4 **SEC. 102. UNITED STATES CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION**
5 **WITH GEORGIA.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the Secretary of State should take the following
8 actions, commensurate with United States interests, to as-
9 sist Georgia to improve its cybersecurity:

10 (1) Provide Georgia such support as may be
11 necessary to secure government computer networks
12 from malicious cyber intrusions, particularly such
13 networks that defend the critical infrastructure of
14 Georgia.

15 (2) Provide Georgia support in reducing reli-
16 ance on Russian information and communications
17 technology.

18 (3) Assist Georgia to build its capacity, expand
19 cybersecurity information sharing, and cooperate on
20 international cyberspace efforts.

21 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
22 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
23 submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
24 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
25 tions of the Senate a report on United States cybersecu-

1 rity cooperation with Georgia. Such report shall also in-
2 clude information relating to the following:

3 (1) United States efforts to strengthen Geor-
4 gia’s ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to
5 cyber incidents, including through training, edu-
6 cation, technical assistance, capacity building, and
7 cybersecurity risk management strategies.

8 (2) The potential for new areas of collaboration
9 and mutual assistance between the United States
10 and Georgia to address shared cyber challenges, in-
11 cluding cybercrime, critical infrastructure protection,
12 and resilience against automated, distributed
13 threats.

14 (3) NATO’s efforts to help Georgia develop
15 technical capabilities to counter cyber threats.

16 **SEC. 103. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT RUSSIAN**
17 **DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA.**

18 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
19 of the United States to enhance the capabilities of Georgia
20 to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda cam-
21 paigns intended to undermine the sovereignty and demo-
22 cratic institutions of Georgia, while promoting the freedom
23 of the press.

24 (b) REQUIRED STRATEGY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of
4 other appropriate United States departments and
5 agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign
6 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
7 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-
8 port outlining a strategy to implement the policy de-
9 scribed in subsection (a).

10 (2) COMPONENTS.—The report required under
11 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12 (A) A detailed assessment of Russian
13 disinformation and propaganda efforts across
14 all media platforms targeting Georgia.

15 (B) An assessment of Georgia’s capabilities
16 to deter and combat such Russian efforts and
17 to support the freedom of the press.

18 (C) A detailed strategy coordinated across
19 all relevant United States departments and
20 agencies to enhance Georgia’s capabilities to
21 deter and combat such Russian efforts.

22 (3) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
23 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
24 contain a classified annex.

1 **SEC. 104. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FREE TRADE AGREE-**
2 **MENT WITH GEORGIA.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
4 Trade Representative should make progress toward nego-
5 tiations with Georgia to enter a bilateral free trade agree-
6 ment with Georgia.

7 **TITLE II—SANCTIONS**
8 **PROVISIONS**

9 **SEC. 201. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON PERSONS**
10 **COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SERI-**
11 **OUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, INCLUDING**
12 **RIGHT TO LIFE IN GEORGIAN REGIONS OF**
13 **ABKHAZIA AND TSKHINVALI REGION/SOUTH**
14 **OSSETIA OCCUPIED BY RUSSIA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose on a
16 foreign person the sanctions described in subsection (b)
17 if the President determines, based on credible information,
18 that such foreign person, on or after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act—

20 (1) is responsible for, complicit in, or respon-
21 sible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing
22 the commission of serious human rights abuses in
23 Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-
24 gion/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by the Russian
25 Federation;

1 (2) is materially assisting, sponsoring, or pro-
2 viding significant financial, material, or technological
3 support for, or goods or services to, a foreign person
4 described in paragraph (1); or

5 (3) is owned or controlled by a foreign person,
6 or is acting on behalf of a foreign person, described
7 in paragraph (1).

8 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
9 scribed in this subsection are the following:

10 (1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all pow-
11 ers granted to the President by the International
12 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701
13 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit
14 all transactions in all property and interests in prop-
15 erty of a person determined by the President to be
16 a person described in subsection (a) if such property
17 and interests in property are in the United States,
18 come within the United States, or are or come with-
19 in the possession or control of a United States per-
20 son, including by taking any of the actions described
21 in paragraph (1) of section 203(a) of such Act (50
22 U.S.C. 1702(a)).

23 (2) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES
24 AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTA-
25 TION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an alien
2 determined by the President to be a person de-
3 scribed in subsection (a), denial of a visa to,
4 and exclusion from the United States of, such
5 alien, and revocation in accordance with section
6 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
7 (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other docu-
8 mentation of such alien.

9 (B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED
10 NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND
11 LAW ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES.—Sanctions
12 under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an
13 individual if admitting such individual into the
14 United States would further important law en-
15 forcement objectives or is necessary to permit
16 the United States to comply with the Agree-
17 ment regarding the Headquarters of the United
18 Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
19 1947, and entered into force November 21,
20 1947, between the United Nations and the
21 United States, or other applicable international
22 obligations of the United States.

23 (c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
24 tion of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a

1 person if the President determines that such a waiver is
2 important to the national interests of the United States.

3 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

4 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
5 ercise all authorities provided to the President under
6 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
7 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and
8 1704) to carry out subsection (b)(1).

9 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
10 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
11 violation of subsection (b)(1) or any regulation, li-
12 cense, or order issued to carry out such subsection
13 shall be subject to the penalties specified in sub-
14 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
15 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
16 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that
17 commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a)
18 of such section.

19 (e) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act and at least
21 once every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed
22 two years, the President, in consultation with the Sec-
23 retary of the Treasury, shall transmit to Congress a de-
24 tailed report with respect to persons that have been deter-

1 mined to have engaged in activities described in subsection

2 (a).

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