

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 598

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 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 propa-
ganda.

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 se-
rious human rights abuses, including right to life in Georgian
regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia occu-
pied by Russia.

TITLE III—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

Sec. 301. Determination of budgetary effects.

6 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to—

8 (1) support continued development of demo-
9 cratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elec-
10 tions, public sector transparency and accountability,
11 the rule of law, and anticorruption efforts;

12 (2) support Georgia’s sovereignty, independ-
13 ence, and territorial integrity within its internation-
14 ally recognized borders;

15 (3) support the right of the people of Georgia
16 to freely determine their future and make inde-

1 pendent and sovereign choices on foreign and secu-
2 rity policy, including regarding their country's rela-
3 tionship with other nations and international organi-
4 zations, without interference, intimidation, or coer-
5 cion by other countries;

6 (4) support Georgia's Euro-Atlantic and Euro-
7 pean integration;

8 (5) not recognize territorial changes effected by
9 force, including the illegal invasions and occupations
10 of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-
11 gion/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation;

12 (6) condemn ongoing detentions, kidnappings,
13 and other human rights violations committed in the
14 Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-
15 gion/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by the Russian
16 Federation, including the recent killings of Georgian
17 citizens Archil Tatunashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, and
18 Davit Basharuli; and

19 (7) support peaceful conflict resolution in Geor-
20 gia, including by urging the Russian Federation to
21 fully implement the European Union-mediated
22 ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008, and sup-
23 porting the establishment of international security
24 mechanisms in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia
25 and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia and the safe

1 and dignified return of internally displaced persons
2 (IDPs) and refugees, all of which are important for
3 lasting peace and security on the ground.

4 **TITLE I—ASSISTANCE** 5 **PROVISIONS**

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

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

8 (1) In fiscal year 2018, the United States pro-
9 vided Georgia with \$2,200,000 in assistance under
10 chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
11 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.; relating to inter-
12 national military education and training) and
13 \$35,000,000 in assistance under section 23 of the
14 Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating
15 to the Foreign Military Financing Program).

16 (2) Georgia has been a longstanding NATO-as-
17 pirant country.

18 (3) Georgia has contributed substantially to
19 Euro-Atlantic peace and security through participa-
20 tion in the International Security Assistance Force
21 (ISAF) and Resolute Support Missions in Afghani-
22 stan as one of the largest troop contributors.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that United States assistance to Georgia under
25 chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

1 and section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act should
2 be increased.

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

8 (d) REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GEOR-
9 GIA.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of
13 other appropriate United States departments and
14 agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign
15 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
16 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-
17 port reviewing United States security assistance to
18 Georgia.

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

21 (A) A detailed review of all United States
22 security assistance to Georgia from fiscal year
23 2008 to the date of the submission of such re-
24 port.

1 (B) An assessment of threats to Georgian
2 independence, sovereignty, and territorial integ-
3 rity.

4 (C) An assessment of Georgia's capabilities
5 to defend itself, including a 5-year strategy to
6 enhance Georgia's deterrence, resilience, and
7 self-defense capabilities.

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

11 **SEC. 102. UNITED STATES CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION**
12 **WITH GEORGIA.**

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

17 (1) Provide Georgia such support as may be
18 necessary to secure government computer networks
19 from malicious cyber intrusions, particularly such
20 networks that defend the critical infrastructure of
21 Georgia.

22 (2) Provide Georgia support in reducing reli-
23 ance on Russian information and communications
24 technology.

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

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
6 submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
7 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
8 tions of the Senate a report on United States cybersecu-
9 rity cooperation with Georgia. Such report shall also in-
10 clude information relating to the following:

11 (1) United States efforts to strengthen Geor-
12 gia’s ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to
13 cyber incidents, including through training, edu-
14 cation, technical assistance, capacity building, and
15 cybersecurity risk management strategies.

16 (2) The potential for new areas of collaboration
17 and mutual assistance between the United States
18 and Georgia to address shared cyber challenges, in-
19 cluding cybercrime, critical infrastructure protection,
20 and resilience against automated, distributed
21 threats.

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

1 **SEC. 103. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT RUSSIAN**
2 **DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA.**

3 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
4 of the United States to enhance the capabilities of Georgia
5 to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda cam-
6 paigns intended to undermine the sovereignty and demo-
7 cratic institutions of Georgia, while promoting the freedom
8 of the press.

9 (b) REQUIRED STRATEGY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of
13 other appropriate United States departments and
14 agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign
15 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
16 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-
17 port outlining a strategy to implement the policy de-
18 scribed in subsection (a).

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

21 (A) A detailed assessment of Russian
22 disinformation and propaganda efforts across
23 all media platforms targeting Georgia.

24 (B) An assessment of Georgia's capabilities
25 to deter and combat such Russian efforts and
26 to support the freedom of the press.

1 (C) A detailed strategy coordinated across
2 all relevant United States departments and
3 agencies to enhance Georgia's capabilities to
4 deter and combat such Russian efforts.

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

8 **SEC. 104. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FREE TRADE AGREE-**
9 **MENT WITH GEORGIA.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
11 Trade Representative should make progress toward nego-
12 tiations with Georgia to enter a bilateral free trade agree-
13 ment with Georgia.

14 **TITLE II—SANCTIONS**
15 **PROVISIONS**

16 **SEC. 201. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON PERSONS**
17 **COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SERI-**
18 **OUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, INCLUDING**
19 **RIGHT TO LIFE IN GEORGIAN REGIONS OF**
20 **ABKHAZIA AND TSKHINVALI REGION/SOUTH**
21 **OSSETIA OCCUPIED BY RUSSIA.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the
23 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a for-
24 eign person if the President determines, based on credible

1 information, that such foreign person, on or after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act—

3 (1) is responsible for, complicit in, or respon-
4 sible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing
5 the commission of any serious abuse of human
6 rights in Georgian regions of Abkhazia and
7 Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by
8 the Russian Federation;

9 (2) is knowingly materially assisting, spon-
10 soring, or providing significant financial, material, or
11 technological support for, or goods or services to, a
12 foreign person described in paragraph (1); or

13 (3) is owned or controlled by a foreign person,
14 or is acting on behalf of a foreign person, described
15 in paragraph (1).

16 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be
17 imposed with respect to a foreign person described in sub-
18 section (a) are the following:

19 (1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The President shall ex-
20 ercise all of the powers granted by the International
21 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701
22 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit
23 all transactions in all property and interests in prop-
24 erty of the person if such property and interests in
25 property are in the United States, come within the

1 United States, or are or come within the possession
2 or control of a United States person.

3 (2) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES
4 AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTA-
5 TION.—

6 (A) INADMISSIBILITY TO THE UNITED
7 STATES.—In the case of a person described in
8 subsection (a) who is an individual, such person
9 shall be—

10 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

11 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
12 documentation to enter the United States;
13 and

14 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
15 or paroled into the United States or to re-
16 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
17 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
18 seq.).

19 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A person
20 described in subsection (a) who is an individual
21 shall be subject to the revocation of any visa or
22 other entry documentation issued to such per-
23 son regardless of when the visa or other entry
24 documentation is or was issued. A revocation
25 under this subparagraph shall take effect imme-

1 diately and shall automatically cancel any other
2 valid visa or entry documentation that is in the
3 person's possession.

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

18 (c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
19 tion of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a
20 person if the President determines that such a waiver is
21 important to the national interests of the United States.

22 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

23 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
24 ercise all authorities provided to the President under
25 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-

1 agency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and
2 1704) to carry out subsection (b)(1).

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

13 (e) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
14 GOODS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and require-
16 ments to impose sanctions authorized under this Act
17 shall not include the authority or requirement to im-
18 pose sanctions on the importation of goods.

19 (2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the
20 term “good” means any article, natural or man-
21 made substance, material, supply or manufactured
22 product, including inspection and test equipment,
23 and excluding technical data.

24 (f) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act and at least

1 once every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed
2 2 years, the President, in consultation with the Secretary
3 of the Treasury, shall transmit to Congress a detailed re-
4 port with respect to persons that have been determined
5 to have engaged in activities described in subsection (a).

6 **TITLE III—DETERMINATION OF**
7 **BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

8 **SEC. 301. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

9 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
10 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
11 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
12 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
13 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
14 by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the
15 House of Representatives, provided that such statement
16 has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives October 22,
2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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