

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 598

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

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## 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 consider-  
ation of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee  
concerned

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## 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;

(5) not recognize territorial changes effected by force, including the illegal invasions and occupations of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation;

(6) condemn ongoing detentions, kidnappings, and other human rights violations committed in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by the Russian Federation, including the recent killings of Georgian citizens Archil Tatunashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, and Davit Basharuli; and

(7) support peaceful conflict resolution in Georgia, including by urging the Russian Federation to fully implement the European Union-mediated ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008, and supporting the establishment of international security mechanisms in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia and the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, all of which are important for lasting peace and security on the ground.

## **TITLE I—ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS**

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

(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).

