

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6219

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY) 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 Georgia’s sovereignty, independence,
4 and territorial integrity within its internationally
5 recognized borders;

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

13 (3) support Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic and Euro-
14 pean integration;

15 (4) not recognize territorial changes effected by
16 force, including the illegal invasions and occupations
17 of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-
18 gion/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation;

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

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

18 (7) support continued development of demo-
19 cratic values in Georgia, including public sector
20 transparency and accountability, as well as
21 anticorruption efforts.

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 the
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 the Government
23 of Georgia, to enhance Georgia’s deterrence, resilience,
24 and self-defense, including through appropriate assistance
25 to improve the capabilities 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 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 Congress a report review-
8 ing United States security assistance to the Govern-
9 ment of Georgia.

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

12 (A) A detailed review of all United States
13 security assistance programs to the Government
14 of Georgia from fiscal year 2008 to the present.

15 (B) An assessment of threats to Georgian
16 independence, sovereignty, and territorial integ-
17 rity.

18 (C) An assessment of Georgia's capabilities
19 to defend itself, including a five-year strategy to
20 enhance the country's deterrence, resilience,
21 and self-defense capabilities.

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

1 **SEC. 102. UNITED STATES CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION**
2 **WITH GEORGIA.**

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

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

12 (2) Provide Georgia support in reducing reli-
13 ance on Russian information and communications
14 technology.

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

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
20 submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
21 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
22 tions of the Senate a report on United States cybersecu-
23 rity cooperation with Georgia. Such report shall also in-
24 clude information relating to the following:

25 (1) United States efforts to strengthen Geor-
26 gia's ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to

1 cyber incidents, including through training, edu-
2 cation, technical assistance, capacity building, and
3 cybersecurity risk management strategies.

4 (2) The potential for new areas of collaboration
5 and mutual assistance between the United States
6 and Georgia in addressing shared cyber challenges,
7 including cybercrime, critical infrastructure protec-
8 tion, and resilience against automated, distributed
9 threats.

10 (3) NATO's efforts to help Georgia develop
11 technical capabilities to counter cyber threats.

12 **SEC. 103. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT RUSSIAN**
13 **DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA.**

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

20 (b) REQUIRED STRATEGY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of
24 other appropriate United States departments and
25 agencies, shall submit to Congress a report outlining

1 a strategy to implement the policy described in sub-
2 section (a).

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

5 (A) A detailed assessment of Russian
6 disinformation and propaganda efforts across
7 all media platforms targeting Georgia.

8 (B) An assessment of the Government of
9 Georgia’s capabilities to deter and combat such
10 Russian efforts and to support the freedom of
11 the press.

12 (C) A detailed strategy coordinated across
13 all relevant United States departments and
14 agencies to enhance the Government of Geor-
15 gia’s capabilities to deter and combat such Rus-
16 sian efforts.

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

20 **SEC. 104. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FREE TRADE AGREE-**
21 **MENT WITH GEORGIA.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
23 Trade Representative should make progress toward nego-
24 tiations with the Government of Georgia to enter a bilat-
25 eral free trade agreement with Georgia.

1 **TITLE II—SANCTIONS**
2 **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 201. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON PERSONS**
4 **COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SERI-**
5 **OUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, INCLUDING**
6 **RIGHT TO LIFE IN GEORGIAN REGIONS OF**
7 **ABKHAZIA AND TSKHINVALI REGION/SOUTH**
8 **OSSETIA OCCUPIED BY RUSSIA.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose with
10 respect to a foreign person the sanctions described in sub-
11 section (b) if the President determines, based on credible
12 information, that such foreign person, on or after the date
13 of enactment of this Act—

14 (1) is responsible for, complicit in, or respon-
15 sible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing
16 the commission of serious human rights abuses in
17 Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-
18 gion/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by the Russian
19 Federation;

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

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

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

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

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

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an alien
25 determined by the President to be a person de-

1 scribed in subsection (a), denial of a visa to,
2 and exclusion from the United States of, such
3 alien, and revocation in accordance with section
4 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
5 (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other docu-
6 mentation of such alien.

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

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

25 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

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

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

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

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