

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5508

To repeal the prohibition on transfer of articles on the United States
Munitions List to the Republic of Cyprus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2018

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. MENG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To repeal the prohibition on transfer of articles on the
United States Munitions List to the Republic of Cyprus.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “End the Cyprus Arms
5 Embargo Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Republic of Cyprus is a vital strategic
9 partner to the United States.

1 (2) The Republic of Cyprus is a critical member
2 of the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State
3 in Iraq and the Levant.

4 (3) The United States cooperates closely with
5 the Republic of Cyprus through information sharing
6 agreements.

7 (4) High-level United States officials have as-
8 sisted the Republic of Cyprus with crafting that na-
9 tion's national security strategy.

10 (5) The United States provides training to Cyp-
11 riot officials in areas such as cybersecurity, counter-
12 terrorism, and explosive ordinance disposal and
13 stockpile management.

14 (6) The Republic of Cyprus is a valued member
15 of the Proliferation Security Initiative to combat the
16 trafficking of weapons of mass destruction.

17 (7) The Republic of Cyprus continues to work
18 closely with the United Nations and regional part-
19 ners in Europe to combat terrorism through law en-
20 forcement, counter violent extremism programs, and
21 through financial mechanisms.

22 (8) The United States and the Republic of Cy-
23 prus maintain strong bilateral economic relations,
24 particularly in sectors such as energy, financial serv-
25 ices, and logistics.

1 (9) The energy exploration in the Republic of
2 Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone and territorial
3 waters includes the participation of United States
4 companies and furthers United States interests by
5 providing a potential alternative to Russian gas for
6 United States allies and partners.

7 (10) Energy exploration in the Eastern Medi-
8 terranean must be safeguarded against threats posed
9 by terrorist and extremist groups such as Hezbollah
10 and others.

11 (11) Despite robust economic and security rela-
12 tions with the United States, the Republic of Cyprus
13 has been subject to a United States embargo prohib-
14 iting the export of defense articles and services since
15 1987.

16 (12) The 1987 arms embargo was designed to
17 restrict United States arms sales and transfer to
18 both the Republic of Cyprus and the occupied part
19 of Cyprus to avoid hindering reunification efforts.

20 (13) At least 30,000 Turkish troops are sta-
21 tioned in the occupied part of Cyprus with weapons
22 procured from the United States through mainland
23 Turkey.

24 (14) The inability of the United States to pro-
25 vide defense articles and services to the Republic of

1 Cyprus has forced Cyprus to obtain these items from
2 countries which pose challenges to United States in-
3 terests around the world.

4 (15) The security of partners in the Eastern
5 Mediterranean region is critical to the security of
6 the United States and Europe.

7 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF ARTI-**
8 **CLES ON THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS**
9 **LIST TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 620C of the Foreign As-
11 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2373) is amended by
12 striking subsection (e).

13 (b) OTHER PROVISIONS.—The following provisions
14 shall have no force or effect:

15 (1) Paragraph (r) of section 126.1 of title 22,
16 Code of Federal Regulations (relating to prohibited
17 exports, imports, and sales to or from Cyprus).

18 (2) Public Notice 1738 of December 18, 1992
19 (57 Fed. Reg. 60265; relating to policy governing
20 munitions export licenses to Cyprus).

○