

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 923  
OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**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. Report on United States democracy and governance assistance to Georgia.  
Sec. 103. United States cybersecurity cooperation with Georgia.  
Sec. 104. Enhanced assistance to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda.  
Sec. 105. 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.

**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 the Republic of Georgia, including

1 free and fair elections, an independent and account-  
2 able judiciary, public sector transparency and ac-  
3 countability, the rule of law, and anticorruption ef-  
4 forts;

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

8 (3) support Georgia's capacity to protect its  
9 sovereignty and territorial integrity from further  
10 Russian aggression or encroachment on Georgian  
11 territory in light of Russia's full-scale invasion of  
12 Ukraine;

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

20 (5) support Georgia's Euro-Atlantic and Euro-  
21 pean integration;

22 (6) not recognize territorial changes effected by  
23 force, including the illegal invasions and occupations  
24 of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-  
25 gion/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation;

1           (7) 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 Tatumashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, Davit  
7           Basharuli, and others in the Georgian regions of  
8           Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia; and

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

## 19                           **TITLE I—ASSISTANCE** 20                           **PROVISIONS**

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

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

23                   (1) In fiscal year 2021, the United States pro-  
24                   vided Georgia with \$2,200,000 in assistance under  
25                   chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act

1 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.; relating to inter-  
2 national military education and training) and  
3 \$35,000,000 in assistance under section 23 of the  
4 Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating  
5 to the Foreign Military Financing Program) and in  
6 2021 announced the Georgia Defense and Deter-  
7 rence Enhancement Initiative (GDDEI) to enable  
8 further modernization of the Georgian Ministry of  
9 Defense and the Georgian Defense Forces.

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

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

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

22 (c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy  
23 of the United States, in consultation with the Republic  
24 of Georgia, to enhance Georgia’s deterrence, resilience,

1 and self-defense, including through appropriate assistance  
2 to improve the capabilities of Georgia's armed forces.

3 (d) REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GEOR-  
4 GIA.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
7 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of  
8 other appropriate United States departments and  
9 agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign  
10 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
11 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-  
12 port reviewing United States security assistance to  
13 the Republic of Georgia.

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

16 (A) An assessment of needed security as-  
17 sistance to improve Georgia's capacity to defend  
18 its sovereignty and territorial integrity from  
19 further invasion of Georgian territory by Rus-  
20 sian forces, including an assessment of need for  
21 anti-armor, anti-air, and anti-tank weapons, as  
22 well as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnais-  
23 sance capabilities.

24 (B) A detailed review of all United States  
25 security assistance to Georgia from fiscal year

1           2008 to the date of the submission of such re-  
2           port.

3           (C) An assessment of threats to Georgian  
4           independence, sovereignty, and territorial integ-  
5           rity, including an assessment of changes to the  
6           force posture or intent of Russian forces occu-  
7           pying Georgian territory.

8           (D) An assessment of Georgia's capabili-  
9           ties to defend itself, including a five-year strat-  
10          egy to enhance Georgia's deterrence, resilience,  
11          and self-defense capabilities that incorporates  
12          plans to address the capability gaps subject to  
13          the assessment described in subparagraph (A).

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

17 **SEC. 102. REPORT ON UNITED STATES DEMOCRACY AND**  
18 **GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
20          date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,  
21          in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Fed-  
22          eral departments and agencies as appropriate, shall sub-  
23          mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House  
24          of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-

1 tions of the Senate a report on United States democracy  
2 and governance assistance to the Republic of Georgia.

3 (b) COMPONENTS.—The report required by sub-  
4 section (a) shall include the following:

5 (1) A description of goals for United States de-  
6 mocracy and governance assistance to Georgia and  
7 its democratic institutions, including how such as-  
8 sistance is supporting Georgia’s stated goals for Eu-  
9 ropean integration.

10 (2) An assessment of the impact of United  
11 States democracy and governance assistance to  
12 Georgia since fiscal year 2008, including challenges  
13 to achieving the goals described in paragraph (1).

14 (3) An assessment of Georgia’s progress relat-  
15 ing to freedom of the press and support for inde-  
16 pendent media, including steps to hold accountable  
17 those responsible for attacks on independent media  
18 and on LGBTQ rights activists on July 5, 2021, in  
19 Tbilisi.

20 (4) An assessment of Georgia’s progress on  
21 strengthening its democratic institutions, including  
22 through electoral and judicial reforms necessary to  
23 build public confidence.

24 (5) A description of barriers and challenges to  
25 United States investment in the Georgian economy,

1 as well as an assessment of how support from the  
2 United States International Development Finance  
3 Corporation in Georgia could help create a better de-  
4 veloped and more transparent investment climate.

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

8 **SEC. 103. UNITED STATES CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION**  
9 **WITH GEORGIA.**

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

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

19 (2) Provide Georgia support in reducing reli-  
20 ance on Russian information and communications  
21 technology.

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

25 (b) REPORT.—



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 shall submit to the Committee on  
4 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and  
5 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate  
6 a report on United States cybersecurity cooperation  
7 with the Republic of Georgia.

8           (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report  
9 required by paragraph (1) shall include information  
10 relating to the following:

11           (A) United States efforts to strengthen  
12 Georgia’s ability to prevent, mitigate, and re-  
13 spond to cyber incidents, including through  
14 training, education, technical assistance, capac-  
15 ity building, and cybersecurity risk management  
16 strategies.

17           (B) The potential for new areas of collabo-  
18 ration and mutual assistance between the  
19 United States and Georgia to address shared  
20 cyber challenges, including cybercrime, critical  
21 infrastructure protection, and resilience against  
22 automated, distributed threats.

23           (C) NATO’s efforts to help Georgia de-  
24 velop technical capabilities to counter cyber  
25 threats.

1 **SEC. 104. 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 the Re-  
5 public of Georgia to combat Russian disinformation and  
6 propaganda campaigns intended to undermine the sov-  
7 ereignty and democratic institutions of Georgia, while pro-  
8 moting the freedom 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 the Republic of  
24 Georgia.

1 (B) An assessment of Georgia's capabilities  
2 to deter and combat such Russian efforts and  
3 to support the freedom of the press.

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

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

11 **SEC. 105. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FREE TRADE AGREE-**  
12 **MENT WITH GEORGIA.**

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

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose on a foreign person the sanctions described in subsection (b) if the President determines that such foreign person, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) is responsible for, complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing the commission of serious human rights abuses in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by the Russian Federation;

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

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

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

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

16 (2) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES  
17 AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTA-  
18 TION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an alien  
20 determined by the President to be a person de-  
21 scribed in subsection (a), denial of a visa to,  
22 and exclusion from the United States of, such  
23 alien, and revocation in accordance with section  
24 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act

1 (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other docu-  
2 mentation of such alien.

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

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

21 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

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

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, and for other purposes.”.

