

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 598, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 598

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

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 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”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 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.

TITLE III—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

- Sec. 301. Determination of budgetary effects.

3 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY.**

4 It is the policy of the United States to—

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

9 (2) support Georgia’s sovereignty, independ-
10 ence, and territorial integrity within its internation-
11 ally recognized borders;

12 (3) support the right of the people of Georgia
13 to freely determine their future and make inde-
14 pendent and sovereign choices on foreign and secu-
15 rity policy, including regarding their country’s rela-
16 tionship with other nations and international organi-

1 zations, without interference, intimidation, or coer-
2 cion by other countries;

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

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

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

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

1 **TITLE I—ASSISTANCE**
2 **PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

13 (2) Georgia has been a longstanding NATO-as-
14 pirant country.

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

20 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that United States assistance to Georgia under
22 chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
23 and section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act should
24 be increased.

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

6 (d) REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GEOR-
7 GIA.—

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

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

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

23 (B) An assessment of threats to Georgian
24 independence, sovereignty, and territorial integ-
25 rity.

1 (C) An assessment of Georgia's capabilities
2 to defend itself, including a five-year strategy to
3 enhance Georgia's deterrence, resilience, and
4 self-defense capabilities.

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

8 **SEC. 102. 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 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.

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

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 103. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT RUSSIAN**
22 **DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA.**

23 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
24 of the United States to enhance the capabilities of Georgia
25 to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda cam-

1 paigns intended to undermine the sovereignty and demo-
2 cratic institutions of Georgia, while promoting the freedom
3 of the press.

4 (b) REQUIRED STRATEGY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 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 outlining a strategy to implement the policy de-
13 scribed in subsection (a).

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

16 (A) A detailed assessment of Russian
17 disinformation and propaganda efforts across
18 all media platforms targeting Georgia.

19 (B) An assessment of Georgia's capabilities
20 to deter and combat such Russian efforts and
21 to support the freedom of the press.

22 (C) A detailed strategy coordinated across
23 all relevant United States departments and
24 agencies to enhance Georgia's capabilities to
25 deter and combat such Russian efforts.

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

4 **SEC. 104. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FREE TRADE AGREE-**
5 **MENT WITH GEORGIA.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
7 Trade Representative should make progress toward nego-
8 tiations with Georgia to enter a bilateral free trade agree-
9 ment with Georgia.

10 **TITLE II—SANCTIONS**
11 **PROVISIONS**

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

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose on a
19 foreign person the sanctions described in subsection (b)
20 if the President determines, based on credible information,
21 that such foreign person, on or after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act—

23 (1) is responsible for, complicit in, or respon-
24 sible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing
25 the commission of any serious abuse of human

1 rights in Georgian regions of Abkhazia and
2 Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by
3 the Russian Federation;

4 (2) is knowingly materially assisting, spon-
5 soring, or providing significant financial, material, or
6 technological support for, or goods or services to, a
7 foreign person described in paragraph (1); or

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

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

13 (1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The President shall ex-
14 ercise all of the powers granted by the International
15 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701
16 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit
17 all transactions in all property and interests in prop-
18 erty of a person if such property and interests in
19 property are in the United States, come within the
20 United States, or are or come within the possession
21 or control of a United States person.

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

1 (A) INADMISSIBILITY TO THE UNITED
2 STATES.—In the case of a person described in
3 subsection (a) who is an individual, such person
4 shall be—

5 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

6 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
7 documentation to enter the United States;
8 and

9 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
10 or paroled into the United States or to re-
11 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
12 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
13 seq.).

14 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A person
15 described in subsection (a) who is an individual
16 shall be subject to the revocation of any visa or
17 other entry documentation issued to such per-
18 son regardless of when the visa or other entry
19 documentation is or was issued. A revocation
20 under this subparagraph shall take effect imme-
21 diately and shall automatically cancel any other
22 valid visa or entry documentation that is in the
23 person's possession.

24 (C) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED
25 NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND

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

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

17 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

18 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
19 ercise all authorities provided to the President under
20 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
21 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and
22 1704) to carry out subsection (b)(1).

23 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
24 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
25 violation of subsection (b)(1) or any regulation, li-

1 cense, or order issued to carry out such subsection
2 shall be subject to the penalties specified in sub-
3 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
4 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
5 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that
6 commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a)
7 of such section.

8 (e) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
9 GOODS.—

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

14 (2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the
15 term “good” means any article, natural or man-
16 made substance, material, supply or manufactured
17 product, including inspection and test equipment,
18 and excluding technical data.

19 (f) 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).

3 **TITLE III—DETERMINATION OF**
4 **BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

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

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