

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4425

To support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2024

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To support democracy and the rule of law in 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 TITLES; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLES.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Georgian People’s Act” or the “GPA Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short titles; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—CONDITIONS ON ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT OF
GEORGIA

Subtitle A—Sanctions

- Sec. 101. Definitions.
- Sec. 102. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 103. Inadmissibility of officials of Government of Georgia and certain other individuals involved in blocking Euro-Atlantic integration.
- Sec. 104. Imposition of sanctions with respect to undermining peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia.
- Sec. 105. Sanctions with respect to broader corruption in Georgia.
- Sec. 106. Exceptions.

Subtitle B—Improving Bilateral Relations With Georgia

- Sec. 111. United States strategy toward Georgia.
- Sec. 112. Report on review of foreign assistance to Georgia.
- Sec. 113. Sense of Congress regarding suspension of United States-Georgia strategic dialogue.
- Sec. 114. Defense cooperation with Georgia.

TITLE II—ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE

- Sec. 201. Statement of policy in support of the Georgian people.
- Sec. 202. Democracy and rule-of-law programming.
- Sec. 203. Report on disinformation and corruption in Georgia.
- Sec. 204. Report on political prisoners in Georgia.
- Sec. 205. Sunset.

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) On April 9, 1991, the Republic of Georgia
 4 declared independence from the Soviet Union, and
 5 on March 24, 1992, the United States and Georgia
 6 established formal diplomatic relations.

7 (2) Since 1993, the territorial integrity of Geor-
 8 gia has been reaffirmed by the international commu-
 9 nity and numerous United Nations Security Council
 10 resolutions.

11 (3) At the 2008 Summit in Bucharest, NATO
 12 recognized the aspirations of Georgia to join NATO

1 and committed that Georgia would become a mem-
2 ber of the Alliance.

3 (4) On August 7, 2008, the Russian Federation
4 invaded Georgia and thereafter occupied 20 percent
5 of its territory, all of which it continues to occupy.

6 (5) On January 9, 2009, the United States and
7 Georgia signed the United States-Georgia Charter
8 on Strategic Partnership, affirming the close rela-
9 tionship between the United States and Georgia
10 based on the shared principles of democracy, free
11 markets, defense and security cooperation, and cul-
12 tural exchanges.

13 (6) Georgia made significant contributions to
14 the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and was the larg-
15 est troop contributor among NATO partners to the
16 NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

17 (7) The United States and Georgia have main-
18 tained a strong security partnership, including the
19 U.S.-Georgia Security Cooperation Framework,
20 signed in November 2019, and the Georgia Defense
21 and Deterrence Enhancement Initiative, launched in
22 October 2021.

23 (8) The United States supports the sovereignty
24 and territorial integrity of Georgia within its inter-
25 nationally recognized borders and condemns the con-

1 tinued occupation by Russia of the Georgian regions
2 of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

3 (9) The United States has continuously sup-
4 ported the democratic wishes of the Georgian people,
5 who have long maintained their aspirations to join
6 the European Union and NATO.

7 (10) During and following her tenure as United
8 States Ambassador and Plenipotentiary to Georgia
9 between 2020 and 2023, Kelly Degnan has been the
10 subject of slander and verbal abuse from members of
11 the Government of Georgia.

12 (11) As recently as October 2023, reputable
13 polling indicates that 86 percent of the Georgian
14 public support Georgia becoming a member of the
15 European Union.

16 (12) Since Russia's full-scale invasion of
17 Ukraine in February 2022, Georgia—

18 (A) has not imposed its own sanctions on
19 Russia; and

20 (B) has increased economic ties, including
21 initiating many direct flights to and from Rus-
22 sia;

23 (C) has eased visa requirements for Rus-
24 sians visiting Georgia; and

1 (D) is perceived as a conduit of Russia's
2 sanctions evasion endeavors.

3 (13) Since Russia's full-scale invasion of
4 Ukraine in February 2022, and the subsequent
5 rounds of international sanctions placed on Russia
6 as a result of such invasion, Georgia saw its trade
7 with Russia grow by 34 percent between January
8 and June 2023.

9 (14) Georgia's geographic position as both a
10 Black Sea littoral nation and its proximity to the
11 Caspian Sea could further strengthen Georgia's
12 economy by transporting natural gas through the
13 Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline Project.

14 (15) In June 2022, when the Governments of
15 Ukraine and Moldova received candidate status for
16 membership in the European Union, the European
17 Council stated it would only be ready to grant Geor-
18 gia candidate status once the country has addressed
19 the 12 priorities outlined by the European Commis-
20 sion.

21 (16) In December 2023, the European Union
22 granted Georgia the status of candidate country,
23 with the understanding that Georgia would act con-
24 sistent with the recommendations of the European
25 Commission by continuing to advance the outlined

1 reform priorities and increasing its alignment with
2 the European Union’s foreign and security policy po-
3 sitions.

4 (17) On February 24, 2023, a foreign agents
5 bill was introduced in the Parliament of Georgia—

6 (A) to impose restrictions on civil society
7 organizations, nongovernmental organizations,
8 and independent media organizations; and

9 (B) to stigmatize such organizations as
10 “foreign agents”.

11 (18) On March 7, 2023, the Parliament of
12 Georgia accelerated the passage of that bill, which
13 led to—

14 (A) large-scale protests that Georgian au-
15 thorities confronted by deploying tear gas and
16 water cannons; and

17 (B) the withdrawal of the bill by the Par-
18 liament.

19 (19) On April 15, 2024, the foreign agents bill,
20 which was renamed “the Law on Transparency of
21 Foreign Influence”, was reintroduced in the Par-
22 liament of Georgia with minor changes that did not
23 reflect the express wishes of the Georgian people,
24 which provoked—

1 (A) large-scale protests in Tbilisi and
2 around the country; and

3 (B) the ejection of opposition parliamen-
4 tarians from parliamentary hearings.

5 (20) On April 29, 2024, former Georgian Prime
6 Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, who is currently the
7 Honorary Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream
8 Party, gave a speech in which he—

9 (A) harshly attacked American and Euro-
10 pean partners;

11 (B) alleged that the goal of foreign funding
12 of civil society and nongovernmental organiza-
13 tions in Georgia is to deprive Georgia of its
14 state sovereignty; and

15 (C) promised to punish opposition political
16 groups.

17 (21) In the face of massive, nation-wide pro-
18 tests against the foreign agents bill, Georgian au-
19 thorities have, in some cases, deployed dispropor-
20 tionate force against largely peaceful protestors, in-
21 cluding—

22 (A) reportedly attacking journalists cov-
23 ering the protests and members of the political
24 opposition; and

1 (B) threatening civil society leaders and
2 family members of protestors at their homes.

3 (22) On May 14, 2024, the Parliament of Geor-
4 gia passed the foreign agents bill against the wishes
5 of the Georgian people.

6 (23) On May 21, 2024, the Venice Commission
7 issued an opinion regarding Georgia’s foreign influ-
8 ence law in which it “strongly recommend[ed] re-
9 pealing the Law in its current form, as its funda-
10 mental flaws will involve significant negative con-
11 sequences for the freedoms of association and ex-
12 pression, the right to privacy, the right to partici-
13 pate in public affairs as well as the prohibition of
14 discrimination.”.

15 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

16 It is the policy of the United States—

17 (1) to call on all political parties and elected
18 Members of the Parliament of Georgia to continue
19 working on addressing the reform plan outlined by
20 the European Commission to advance Georgia’s re-
21 cently granted candidate status, which the people of
22 Georgia have freely elected to pursue;

23 (2) to call on the Government of Georgia to in-
24 stitute the required reforms, which are to be devel-
25 oped through an inclusive and transparent consulta-

1 tion process with opposition parties and civil society
2 organizations;

3 (3) to express serious concern that impediments
4 to strengthening the democratic institutions and
5 processes of Georgia, including the foreign agents
6 bill, will slow or halt Georgia’s progress toward
7 achieving its Euro-Atlantic aspirations, be perceived
8 as stagnating the democratic trajectory of Georgia,
9 and result in negative domestic and international
10 consequences for the Government of Georgia;

11 (4) to impose swift consequences on individuals
12 who are directly responsible for leading or have di-
13 rectly and knowingly engaged in leading, actions or
14 policies that significantly undermine the peace, secu-
15 rity, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of
16 Georgia;

17 (5) to emphasize the importance of contributing
18 to international efforts—

19 (A) to combat Russian aggression, includ-
20 ing through sanctions on trade with Russia and
21 the implementation and enforcement of world-
22 wide sanctions on Russia; and

23 (B) to reduce, rather than increase, trade
24 ties between Georgia and Russia;

1 (6) to call on all political parties, elected Mem-
2 bers of the Parliament of Georgia, and officers of
3 the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respect
4 the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and
5 expression, including for the press, and the rule of
6 law, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive civil soci-
7 ety;

8 (7) to call on the Government of Georgia to re-
9 lease all persons detained or imprisoned on politi-
10 cally motivated grounds and drop any pending
11 charges against them;

12 (8) to call on the Government of Georgia to en-
13 sure that the national elections scheduled for Octo-
14 ber 2024 are free, fair, and reflective of the will of
15 the Georgian people; and

16 (9) to continue impressing upon the Govern-
17 ment of Georgia that the United States is committed
18 to sustaining and deepening bilateral relations and
19 supporting Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

20 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
23 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
24 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
2 the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of
4 the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
6 the House of Representatives; and

7 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
8 the House of Representatives.

9 (2) FOREIGN AGENTS BILL.—The term “for-
10 eign agents bill” means the “On Transparency of
11 Foreign Influence” bill, which was reintroduced in
12 the Parliament of Georgia in April 2024.

13 (3) GEORGIA.—The term “Georgia” means the
14 Republic of Georgia.

15 (4) NATO.—The term “NATO” means the
16 North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

17 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of State.

19 **TITLE I—CONDITIONS ON EN-**
20 **GAGEMENT WITH GOVERN-**
21 **MENT OF GEORGIA**

22 **Subtitle A—Sanctions**

23 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this subtitle:

1 (1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms
2 “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the
3 meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Im-
4 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

5 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
6 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
9 the Senate;

10 (B) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
11 and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

12 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
13 the House of Representatives; and

14 (D) the Committee on Financial Services
15 of the House of Representatives.

16 (3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
17 son” means any individual or entity that is not a
18 United States person.

19 (4) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—The term
20 “immediate family members” has the meaning given
21 the term “immediate relatives” in section
22 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality
23 Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(A)(i)).

24 (5) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with
25 respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result,

1 means that a person has actual knowledge, or should
 2 have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the
 3 result.

4 (6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
 5 “United States person” means—

6 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
 7 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
 8 United States;

9 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
 10 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
 11 United States, including a foreign branch of
 12 such an entity; or

13 (C) any person within the United States.

14 **SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United
 16 States to support the constitutionally stated aspirations
 17 of Georgia to become a member of the European Union
 18 and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which—

19 (1) is made clear under Article 78 of the Con-
 20 stitution of Georgia; and

21 (2) is supported by 86 percent of the citizens
 22 of Georgia.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 24 gress that—

1 (1) acts of blocking Euro-Atlantic integration in
2 Georgia, due to undue influence from corrupt or oli-
3 garchic forces, constitute a form of corruption;

4 (2) the United States should consider travel re-
5 strictions or sanctions on individuals responsible for
6 any actions preventing Georgia from moving toward
7 Euro-Atlantic integration, which include acts of vio-
8 lence or intimidation against Georgian citizens,
9 members of civil society, and members of an opposi-
10 tion political party;

11 (3) the United States, in response to recent
12 events in Georgia, should reassess whether recent
13 actions undertaken by individuals in Georgia should
14 result in the imposition of sanctions by the United
15 States for acts of significant corruption and human
16 rights abuses; and

17 (4) the United States should consider revoking
18 the visas of nationals of Georgia and their family
19 members who—

20 (A) live in the United States; and

21 (B) are determined to meet the criteria de-
22 scribed in section 103(a).

1 **SEC. 103. INADMISSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERN-**
2 **MENT OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER IN-**
3 **DIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN BLOCKING EURO-**
4 **ATLANTIC INTEGRATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall iden-
7 tify and make a determination as to whether any of the
8 following foreign persons has knowingly engaged in signifi-
9 cant acts of corruption, or acts of violence or intimidation
10 in relation to the blocking of Euro-Atlantic integration in
11 Georgia:

12 (1) Any individual who, on or after January 1,
13 2012, has served as a member of the Parliament of
14 the Government of Georgia, as a senior staff mem-
15 ber of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia,
16 or as a current or former senior official of a Geor-
17 gian political party.

18 (2) Any individual who is serving as an official
19 in a leadership position working on behalf of the
20 Government of Georgia, including law enforcement,
21 intelligence, judicial, or local or municipal govern-
22 ment.

23 (3) An immediate family member of an official
24 described in paragraph (1) or a person described in
25 paragraph (2).

26 (b) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry doc-
2 umentation of any alien described in subsection (a)
3 is subject to immediate revocation regardless of the
4 issue date of such visa or documentation.

5 (2) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation of a
6 visa or other entry documentation of any alien pur-
7 suant to paragraph (1) shall, in accordance with sec-
8 tion 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
9 (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

10 (A) take effect immediately; and

11 (B) cancel any other valid visa or entry
12 documentation that is in the possession of such
13 alien.

14 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
16 a written report to the Committee on Foreign Relations
17 of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
18 the House of Representatives that—

19 (1) lists any foreign person for whom the Sec-
20 retary has determined has knowingly engaged in an
21 activity described in subsection (a); and

22 (2) a detailed justification for each such posi-
23 tive determination.

24 (d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (c)
25 shall be submitted in accordance with the reporting re-

1 requirements outlined in 7031(c) of the Department of
2 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Appropriations
3 Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47; 8 U.S.C.
4 1182 note).

5 (e) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the applica-
6 tion of subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that—

7 (1) such waiver would serve a compelling na-
8 tional interest; or

9 (2) the circumstances which caused the indi-
10 vidual to be ineligible have sufficiently changed.

11 **SEC. 104. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO**
12 **UNDERMINING PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY,**
13 **SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY**
14 **OF GEORGIA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in sub-
16 section (b) shall be applied to any foreign person the
17 President determines, on or after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act—

19 (1) is responsible for, complicit in, or has di-
20 rectly or indirectly engaged in or attempted to en-
21 gage in, actions or policies, including ordering, con-
22 trolling, or otherwise directing acts that are intended
23 to undermine the peace, security, stability, sov-
24 ereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

1 (2) is or has been a leader or official of an enti-
2 ty that has, or whose members have, engaged in any
3 activity described in paragraph (1); or

4 (3) is an immediate family member of a person
5 subject to sanctions for conduct described in para-
6 graph (1) or (2) who benefitted from such conduct.

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

9 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwith-
10 standing the requirements under section 202 of the
11 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
12 U.S.C. 1701), the President shall exercise all au-
13 thorities granted under the International Emergency
14 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to
15 the extent necessary to block and prohibit all trans-
16 actions in property and interests in property of a
17 foreign person subject to subsection (a) if such prop-
18 erty and interests in property are in the United
19 States, come within the United States, or are or
20 come within the possession or control of a United
21 States person.

22 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
23 PAROLE.—

24 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An
25 alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

1 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

2 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other

3 documentation to enter the United States;

4 and

5 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted

6 or paroled into the United States or to re-

7 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-

8 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et

9 seq.).

10 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other

12 entry documentation of any alien described

13 in subsection (a) is subject to revocation

14 regardless of the issue date of the visa or

15 other entry documentation.

16 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-

17 tion under clause (i) shall, in accordance

18 with section 221(i) of the Immigration and

19 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

20 (I) take effect immediately; and

21 (II) cancel any other valid visa or

22 entry documentation that is in the

23 possession of the alien.

24 (c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-

25 tion of sanctions under this section with respect to a for-

1 eign person for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days
2 if, not later than 15 days before the date on which such
3 waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the ap-
4 propriate committees of Congress a written determination
5 and justification that the waiver is in the national security
6 interests of the United States.

7 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

8 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
9 ercise all authorities provided under sections 203
10 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic
11 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out
12 this section.

13 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
14 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
15 violation of subsection (b)(1) or any regulation, li-
16 cense, or order issued under that subsection shall be
17 subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b)
18 and (c) of section 206 of the International Economic
19 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as
20 a person that commits an unlawful act described in
21 subsection (a) of that section.

22 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
23 Act, or in any amendment made by this Act, may be
24 construed to limit the authority of the President to
25 designate or sanction persons pursuant to an appli-

1 cable Executive order or otherwise pursuant to the
2 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
3 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

4 (e) RULEMAKING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 President shall prescribe such regulations as are
8 necessary for the implementation of this section.

9 (2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later
10 than 10 days before prescribing regulations pursu-
11 ant to paragraph (1), the President shall notify the
12 appropriate committees of Congress of the proposed
13 regulations and the provisions of this section that
14 the regulations are implementing.

15 (f) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions
16 imposed on a foreign person pursuant to this section shall
17 terminate on the earlier of—

18 (1) the date on which the President certifies to
19 the appropriate committees of Congress that the
20 conditions requiring such sanctions no longer apply;
21 or

22 (2) December 31, 2029.

23 (g) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
24 on December 31, 2029.

1 **SEC. 105. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BROADER COR-**
2 **RUPTION IN GEORGIA.**

3 (a) DETERMINATION AND REPORT REQUIRED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 President shall submit to the appropriate commit-
7 tees of Congress a report that includes—

8 (A) a list of all foreign persons about
9 whom the Secretary has made a positive deter-
10 mination pursuant to section 103(a); and

11 (B) a determination as to whether any for-
12 eign person on the list described in subpara-
13 graph (A) qualifies under existing sanctions au-
14 thorities described in subsection (b).

15 (2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required
16 under paragraph (1) shall be provided in unclassified
17 form, but a classified annex may be provided sepa-
18 rately containing additional contextual information
19 pertaining to the justification for the issuance of any
20 waiver, as described in paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

21 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
22 scribed in this subsection are sanctions applicable with re-
23 spect to a person for acts of significant corruption, in-
24 volvement in human rights abuses, or harmful foreign ac-
25 tivities in Georgia under—

1 (1) Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701
2 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons
3 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of
4 the Government of the Russian Federation); or

5 (2) Executive Order 13818 (50 U.S.C. 1701
6 note; relating to blocking the property of persons in-
7 volved in serious human rights abuse or corruption).

8 (c) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Not later than
9 120 days after receiving a request from the chairman and
10 ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations
11 of the Senate or of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
12 the House of Representatives with respect to whether a
13 foreign person meets meet the criteria for the imposition
14 of sanctions described in subsection (b), the President
15 shall—

16 (1) determine if the person meets such criteria;
17 and

18 (2) submit a written justification to such chair-
19 man and ranking member detailing whether the
20 President imposed or intends to impose sanctions
21 described in this section with respect to such person.

22 **SEC. 106. EXCEPTIONS.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term
25 “agricultural commodity” has the meaning given

1 such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade
2 Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

3 (2) GOOD.—The term “good” means any arti-
4 cle, natural or man-made substance, material, sup-
5 ply, or manufactured product, including inspection
6 and test equipment and excluding technical data.

7 (3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term “medical de-
8 vice” has the meaning given the term “device” in
9 section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-
10 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

11 (4) MEDICINE.—The term “medicine” has the
12 meaning given the term “drug” in section 201 of the
13 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.
14 321).

15 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—

16 (1) EXCEPTION RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE
17 ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not
18 apply to—

19 (A) any activity subject to the reporting
20 requirements under title V of the National Se-
21 curity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

22 (B) any authorized intelligence activities of
23 the United States.

24 (2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
25 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

1 ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not
2 apply with respect to an alien if admitting or parol-
3 ing such alien into the United States is necessary—

4 (A) to permit the United States to comply
5 with the Agreement regarding the Head-
6 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
7 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
8 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
9 tions and the United States, or other applicable
10 international obligations of the United States;

11 or

12 (B) to carry out or assist authorized law
13 enforcement activity in the United States.

14 (3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
15 GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all
16 transactions in all property and interests in property
17 under this Act shall not include the authority or a
18 requirement to impose sanctions on the importation
19 of goods.

20 (4) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions
21 under this Act shall not apply to—

22 (A) the conduct or facilitation of a trans-
23 action for the provision of agricultural commod-
24 ities, food, medicine, medical devices, or human-

1 itarian assistance, or for humanitarian pur-
2 poses; or

3 (B) transactions that are necessary for, or
4 related to, the activities described in subpara-
5 graph (A).

6 **Subtitle B—Improving Bilateral**
7 **Relations With Georgia**

8 **SEC. 111. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TOWARD GEORGIA.**

9 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY ON GEORGIA.—It is the
10 policy of the United States—

11 (1) to express that if the Government of Geor-
12 gia proceeds to pass the foreign agents law and
13 other legislation further inhibiting its ability to ad-
14 vance its accession into the European Union—

15 (A) the United States Government’s policy
16 toward Georgia should take into consideration
17 these updated circumstances; and

18 (B) the United States should review all
19 forms of foreign and security assistance made
20 available to the Government of Georgia; and

21 (2) to reevaluate its policy toward the Govern-
22 ment of Georgia if the Government of Georgia takes
23 the required steps—

24 (A) to reorient itself toward its European
25 Union accession agenda; and

1 (B) to advance policy or legislation reflect-
2 ing the express wishes of the Georgian people.

3 (b) 5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILAT-
4 ERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.—Not later than 90
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of State and the Administrator of the United States
7 Agency for International Development, in coordination
8 with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
9 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
10 committees a detailed strategy which shall—

11 (1) outline specific objectives for enhancing bi-
12 lateral ties which reflect the current domestic polit-
13 ical environment in Georgia;

14 (2) determine what tools, resources, and fund-
15 ing should be available and assess whether Georgia
16 should remain the second-highest recipient of United
17 States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

18 (3) determine the extent to which the United
19 States should continue to invest in its defense part-
20 nership with Georgia;

21 (4) explore how the United States can continue
22 to support civil society and independent media orga-
23 nizations in Georgia; and

24 (5) determine whether the Government of Geor-
25 gia remains committed to expanding trade ties with

1 the United States and Europe and whether the
2 United States Government should continue to invest
3 in Georgian projects.

4 **SEC. 112. REPORT ON REVIEW OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO**
5 **GEORGIA.**

6 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary,
8 in coordination with the USAID Administrator and other
9 relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the ap-
10 propriate congressional committees that outlines all assist-
11 ance provided by any United States Government agency
12 to the Government of Georgia that are not explicitly fo-
13 cused on democracy or rule of law and shall include—

- 14 (1) a detailed overview of each project; and
15 (2) associated funding allocations, including
16 projected funding for each project.

17 (b) SUSPENSION OF PROJECTS.—Not later than 60
18 days after the date on which the report required under
19 subsection (a) is submitted, the Secretary shall—

- 20 (1) suspend all projects in Georgia carried out
21 by the Department of State or other United States
22 Government agencies that primarily provide material
23 aid, reputational advantage, or sustenance to state
24 actors, officials, or their proxies who undermine the

1 democracy of Georgia and enable Russian aggression
2 within and outside of Georgia; and

3 (2) consult with the appropriate congressional
4 committees before any programming actions are
5 taken in response to such review.

6 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) REPROGRAMMING.—The Secretary may re-
8 program any amounts that cannot be absorbed to
9 support democracy and rule-of-law initiatives in
10 Georgia to other initiatives taking place in other
11 countries in the Europe and Eurasia region after no-
12 tifying the appropriate congressional committees.

13 (2) LIMITATION.—No amounts appropriated or
14 otherwise made available by the Act entitled “An
15 Act Making emergency supplemental appropriations
16 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and
17 for other purposes”, approved April 24, 2024 (Pub-
18 lic Law 118–50) may be obligated or expended for
19 any assistance to Georgia unless the Secretary cer-
20 tifies to the appropriate congressional committees
21 that—

22 (A) such obligation or expenditure is in the
23 vital national security interest of the United
24 States; or

1 (B) the Government of Georgia is taking
2 measures—

3 (i) to represent the democratic wishes
4 of the citizens of Georgia; and

5 (ii) to uphold its constitutional obliga-
6 tion to advance membership in the Euro-
7 pean Union and NATO.

8 **SEC. 113. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SUSPENSION**
9 **OF UNITED STATES-GEORGIA STRATEGIC**
10 **DIALOGUE.**

11 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should
12 suspend the United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership
13 Commission, established through the United States-Geor-
14 gia Charter on Strategic Partnership on January 9, 2009,
15 until after the Government of Georgia takes measures—

16 (1) to represent the democratic wishes of the
17 citizens of Georgia; and

18 (2) to uphold its constitutional obligation to ad-
19 vance the country towards membership in the Euro-
20 pean Union and NATO.

21 **SEC. 114. DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH GEORGIA.**

22 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that the United States—

1 (1) is proud of the strong defense relationship
2 between the United States and Georgia, which
3 was—

4 (A) cemented in 2002 through a Defense
5 Cooperation Agreement; and

6 (B) further enhanced in October 2021 by
7 the Georgia Defense and Deterrence Enhance-
8 ment Initiative.

9 (2) is grateful to the Georgian Defense forces
10 for their contributions to international peacekeeping
11 missions, including—

12 (A) the NATO-led Kosovo Force mission;

13 (B) the European Union Military Oper-
14 ation in the Central African Republic; and

15 (C) its deployment of forces in support of
16 United States forces in Iraq from 2006 to
17 2008;

18 (3) is grateful to the Georgian Ministry of De-
19 fense’s contributions toward the NATO-led Inter-
20 national Security Assistance Force (referred to in
21 this section as the “ISAF”) in Afghanistan, where-
22 by—

23 (A) Georgia was one of the largest contrib-
24 utors of troops per capita for a non-NATO
25 country; and

1 (B) 32 Georgian soldiers died and 280
2 Georgian soldiers were wounded in support of
3 the ISAF mission; and

4 (4) should, to the extent possible, sustain
5 strong ties between the United States military and
6 the Georgian Ministry of Defense.

7 (b) DEFENSE REVIEW.—Not later than 120 days
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
9 of Defense shall conduct a defense review to determine
10 whether the United States, in response to recent political
11 developments in Georgia, should continue to support the
12 military needs of Georgia.

13 **TITLE II—ADDITIONAL MEAS-**
14 **URES TO SUPPORT THE**
15 **GEORGIAN PEOPLE**

16 **SEC. 201. STATEMENT OF POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE**
17 **GEORGIAN PEOPLE.**

18 It is the policy of the United States—

19 (1) to continue supporting the ongoing develop-
20 ment of democratic values in Georgia, including free
21 and fair elections, freedom of association, an inde-
22 pendent and accountable judiciary, an independent
23 media, public-sector transparency and accountability,
24 the rule of law, countering malign influence, and
25 anticorruption efforts;

1 (2) to support the sovereignty, independence,
2 and territorial integrity of Georgia within its inter-
3 nationally recognized borders;

4 (3) to continue to support the Georgian people
5 and civil society organizations that reflect the aspi-
6 rations of the Georgian people for democracy and a
7 future with the people of Europe;

8 (4) to continue supporting the capacity of the
9 Government of Georgia to protect its sovereignty
10 and territorial integrity from further Russian ag-
11 gression or encroachment;

12 (5) to support domestic and international ef-
13 forts, including polling, pre-election and election-day
14 observation efforts, to support the execution of free
15 and fair elections in Georgia in October 2024;

16 (6) to continue supporting the right of the
17 Georgian people to freely engage in peaceful protest,
18 determine their future, and make independent and
19 sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, in-
20 cluding regarding Georgia's relationship with other
21 countries and international organizations, without
22 interference, intimidation, or coercion by other coun-
23 tries or those acting on their behalf; and

1 (7) to underscore the unwavering bipartisan
2 support from Congress in supporting the democratic
3 aspirations of the Georgian people.

4 **SEC. 202. DEMOCRACY AND RULE-OF-LAW PROGRAMMING.**

5 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING EFFECT OF
6 NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA.—It is the policy of
7 the United States to undertake efforts, in partnership with
8 the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
9 of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Eu-
10 rope, to ensure that the national elections in Georgia that
11 are scheduled to be held in October 2024 are conducted
12 in a manner that is free, fair, and reflective of the will
13 of the Georgian people and show evidence of a broader
14 and sustainable democratic trajectory.

15 (b) FUNDING.—From the amounts appropriated to
16 the Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia ac-
17 count under the Department of State, Foreign Operations,
18 and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024, or under
19 the comparable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025,
20 not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available—

21 (1) to strengthen democracy and civil society in
22 Georgia, including for transparency, independent
23 media, rule of law, anti-corruption efforts, coun-
24 tering malign influence, and good governance initia-
25 tives; and

1 (2) to support the Georgian people’s efforts to
2 advance their aspirations for membership in the Eu-
3 ropean Union and Euro-Atlantic integration.

4 (c) REVIEW OF SUPPORT.—In response to the pas-
5 sage of the foreign agents law, the Secretary and the Ad-
6 ministrators of the United States Agency for International
7 Development shall undertake a review of efforts to deter-
8 mine—

9 (1) how best to continue providing support to
10 civil society and independent media organizations in
11 Georgia; and

12 (2) whether additional funds should be allocated
13 to the National Endowment for Democracy for ini-
14 tiatives in Georgia.

15 **SEC. 203. REPORT ON DISINFORMATION AND CORRUPTION**
16 **IN GEORGIA.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-
19 nation with such agencies as the Secretary considers rel-
20 evant, shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees a report that includes—

22 (1) an assessment of efforts within and outside
23 of Georgia to spread disinformation within Georgia
24 to mischaracterize or undermine the bilateral rela-

1 tionships between the United States and Georgia
2 and the European Union and Georgia;

3 (2) a list of—

4 (A) sources that have played an active role
5 in advancing disinformation campaigns to erode
6 public support for the United States, the Euro-
7 pean Union, and NATO within Georgia; and

8 (B) efforts undertaken by the Government
9 of Georgia to sanction actors involved in the
10 spread of disinformation that limits its Euro-
11 Atlantic aspirations;

12 (3) an assessment of the extent to which cor-
13 rupt actors are undermining the ability of political
14 parties and democratic institutions in Georgia to up-
15 hold and adhere to the principles of transparency
16 and good governance;

17 (4) a list of policy options to assist the Govern-
18 ment of Georgia in helping protect democracy and
19 the rule of law by punishing bad actors;

20 (5) an overview of efforts in Georgia designed—

21 (A) to suppress a free and independent
22 media; or

23 (B) to harass and intimidate civil society;

24 (6) a list of actors responsible for—

1 (A) the suppression of a free and inde-
2 pendent media in Georgia; or

3 (B) harassment and intimidation of civil
4 society in Georgia;

5 (7) an assessment of—

6 (A) the Russian Federation's influence and
7 information operations in Georgia; and

8 (B) connections between the influence and
9 operations described in subparagraph (A) and
10 the broader agenda of the Russian Federation
11 in the region; and

12 (8) an assessment of—

13 (A) the People's Republic of China's influ-
14 ence and information operations in Georgia;
15 and

16 (B) connections between the influence and
17 operations described in subparagraph (A) and
18 the broader agenda of the People's Republic of
19 China in the region.

20 (b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
21 shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified
22 annex.

23 **SEC. 204. REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IN GEORGIA.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-

1 nation with relevant Federal agencies, as determined by
2 the Secretary, shall submit a report to the Committee on
3 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on
4 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representativesa that in-
5 cludes—

6 (1) a list of prisoners within the Georgian pris-
7 on system that the Department of State considers to
8 be imprisoned for political reasons or otherwise
9 wrongfully detained, especially those who have been
10 detained since March 2024; and

11 (2) a description of efforts to work with Geor-
12 gian authorities to advocate for the release of such
13 prisoners.

14 (b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
15 shall be submitted in unclassified form.

16 **SEC. 205. SUNSET.**

17 This Act, except for section 104, shall cease to have
18 any force or effect beginning on the date that is 5 years
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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