

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 36

To counter the influence of the Chinese Communist Party, the Iranian Regime, and the Russian Federation in the nation of Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 counter the influence of the Chinese Communist Party, the Iranian Regime, and the Russian Federation in the nation of Georgia.

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 “Mobilizing and En-
5 hancing Georgia’s Options for Building Accountability,
6 Resilience, and Independence Act” or the “MEGOBARI
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
7 the Senate;

8 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of
9 the Senate;

10 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
11 the House of Representatives; and

12 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
13 the House of Representatives.

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

16 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of State.

18 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

19 It is the sense of Congress that—

20 (1) the progress made by the people of Georgia
21 in forging an innovative and productive society since
22 the country’s independence from the Soviet Union
23 should be applauded;

24 (2) the consolidation of democracy in Georgia is
25 critical for regional stability and United States na-
26 tional interests;

1 (3) Georgia has seen significant democratic
2 backsliding in recent years, as evidenced by numer-
3 ous independent assessments and measures;

4 (4) the current Georgian government is increas-
5 ingly hostile towards independent domestic civil soci-
6 ety and its chief Euro-Atlantic partners while in-
7 creasingly embracing enhanced ties with the Russian
8 Federation, the People’s Republic of China, and
9 other anti-Western authoritarian regimes;

10 (5) the United States has an interest in pro-
11 tecting and securing democracy in Georgia; and

12 (6) the Secretary should suspend the United
13 States-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission,
14 established through the United States-Georgia Char-
15 ter on Strategic Partnership on January 9, 2009,
16 until after the Government of Georgia takes meas-
17 ures—

18 (A) to represent the democratic wishes of
19 the citizens of Georgia; and

20 (B) to uphold its constitutional obligation
21 to advance the country towards membership in
22 the European Union and NATO.

23 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

24 It is the policy of the United States—

1 (1) to support the constitutionally stated aspi-
2 rations of Georgia to become a member of the Euro-
3 pean Union and NATO, which is made clear under
4 Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia and is sup-
5 ported by the overwhelming majority of the citizens
6 of Georgia;

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

12 (3) to call on all political parties and elected
13 Members of the Parliament of Georgia to continue
14 working on addressing the reform plan outlined by
15 the European Commission to resume Georgia's re-
16 cently granted candidate status through an inclusive
17 and transparent consultation process that involves
18 opposition parties and civil society organizations,
19 which the people of Georgia have freely elected to
20 pursue;

21 (4) to reevaluate its relationship with the Gov-
22 ernment of Georgia and review all forms of foreign
23 and security assistance made available to the Gov-
24 ernment if it takes the required steps—

1 (A) to reorient itself toward its European
2 Union accession agenda; and

3 (B) to advance policy or legislation reflect-
4 ing the express wishes of the Georgian people;
5 (5) to emphasize the importance of contributing
6 to international efforts—

7 (A) to combat Russian aggression, includ-
8 ing through sanctions on trade with Russia and
9 the implementation and enforcement of world-
10 wide sanctions on Russia; and

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

13 (6) to continue supporting the ongoing develop-
14 ment of democratic values in Georgia, including free
15 and fair elections, freedom of association, an inde-
16 pendent and accountable judiciary, an independent
17 media, public-sector transparency and accountability,
18 the rule of law, countering malign influence, and
19 anti-corruption efforts and to impose swift con-
20 sequences on individuals who are directly responsible
21 for leading or have directly and knowingly engaged
22 in leading actions of policies that significantly un-
23 dermine those standards;

24 (7) to continue to support the Georgian people
25 and civil society organizations that reflect the aspi-

1 rations of the Georgian people for democracy and a
2 future with the people of Europe;

3 (8) to continue supporting the right of the
4 Georgian people to freely engage in peaceful protest,
5 determine their future, and make independent and
6 sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, in-
7 cluding regarding Georgia's relationship with other
8 countries and international organizations, without
9 interference, intimidation, or coercion by other coun-
10 tries or those acting on their behalf;

11 (9) to call on all political parties, elected Mem-
12 bers of the Parliament of Georgia, and officers of
13 the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respect
14 the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and
15 expression, including for the press, and the rule of
16 law, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive civil soci-
17 ety;

18 (10) to call on the Government of Georgia to
19 release all persons detained or imprisoned on politi-
20 cally motivated grounds and drop any pending
21 charges against them;

22 (11) to call on the Government of Georgia to
23 thoroughly investigate all allegations emerging from
24 the recent national elections, which took place on
25 October 2024, make a determination whether the

1 elections should be judged as illegitimate and hold
2 those responsible for interference in the elections;
3 and

4 (12) to continue impressing upon the Govern-
5 ment of Georgia that the United States is committed
6 to sustaining and deepening bilateral relations and
7 supporting Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

8 **SEC. 5. REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.**

9 (a) REPORT ON RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE ASSETS IN
10 GEORGIA.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary of State, in coordination with the Director of
14 National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense,
15 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
16 gress a classified report, prepared consistent with
17 the protection of sources and methods, examining
18 the penetration of Russian intelligence elements and
19 their assets in Georgia, that includes an annex ex-
20 amining Chinese influence and the potential inter-
21 section of Russian-Chinese cooperation in Georgia.

22 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
23 GRESS.—In this section, the term “appropriate com-
24 mittees of Congress” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
2 the Senate, the Select Committee on Intel-
3 ligence of the Senate, and the Committee on
4 Armed Services of the Senate; and

5 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
6 the House of Representatives, the Permanent
7 Select Committee on Intelligence of the House
8 of Representatives, and the Committee on
9 Armed Services of the House of Representa-
10 tives.

11 (b) 5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILAT-
12 ERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 and the Administrator of the United States Agency
16 for International Development, in coordination with
17 the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
18 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
19 sional committees a detailed strategy that—

20 (A) outlines specific objectives for enhanc-
21 ing bilateral ties which reflect the current do-
22 mestic political environment in Georgia;

23 (B) includes a determination of the tools,
24 resources, and funding that should be available
25 to achieve the objectives outlined pursuant to

paragraph (1) and an assessment whether Georgia should remain the second-highest recipient of United States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

(C) includes a determination of the extent to which the United States should continue to invest in its partnership with Georgia;

(D) includes a plan for how the United States can continue to support civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(E) includes a determination whether the Government of Georgia remains committed to expanding trade ties with the United States and Europe and whether the United States Government should continue to invest in Georgian projects.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex.

SEC. 6. SANCTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the

meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

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

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

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

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

1 (5) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with
2 respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result,
3 means that a person has actual knowledge, or should
4 have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the
5 result.

6 (6) UNITES STATES PERSON.—The term
7 “United States person” means—

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

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

15 (C) any person within the United States.

16 (b) INADMISSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERN-
17 MENT OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS
18 INVOLVED IN BLOCKING EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRA-
19 TION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
22 shall determine whether each of the following foreign
23 persons has knowingly engaged in significant acts of
24 corruption, or acts of violence or intimidation in re-

1 lation to the blocking of Euro-Atlantic integration in
2 Georgia:

3 (A) Any individual who, on or after Janu-
4 ary 1, 2014, has served as a member of the
5 Parliament of the Government of Georgia or as
6 a current or former senior official of a Georgian
7 political party.

8 (B) Any individual who is serving as an of-
9 ficial in a leadership position working on behalf
10 of the Government of Georgia, including law en-
11 forcement, intelligence, judicial, or local or mu-
12 nicipal government.

13 (C) An immediate family member of an of-
14 ficial described in subparagraph (A) or a person
15 described in subparagraph (B) who benefitted
16 from the conduct of such official or person.

17 (2) SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose
18 the sanctions described in subsection (d)(2) with re-
19 spect to each foreign person with respect to which
20 the President has made an affirmative decision
21 under paragraph (1).

22 (3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress
25 with respect to—

1 (A) any foreign person with respect to
 2 which the President has made an affirmative
 3 determination under paragraph (1); and

4 (B) the specific facts that justify each such
 5 affirmative determination.

6 (4) WAIVER.—The President may waive imposi-
 7 tion of sanctions under this subsection on a case-by-
 8 case basis if the President determines and reports to
 9 the appropriate committees of Congress that—

10 (A) such waiver would serve national secu-
 11 rity interests; or

12 (B) the circumstances which caused the in-
 13 dividual to be ineligible have sufficiently
 14 changed.

15 (c) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO
 16 UNDERMINING PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOV-
 17 EREIGNTY OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose
 19 the sanctions described in subsection (d)(1) and
 20 shall impose the sanctions described in subsection
 21 (d)(2) with respect to each foreign person the Presi-
 22 dent determines, on or after the date of the enact-
 23 ment of this Act—

24 (A) is responsible for, complicit in, or has
 25 directly or indirectly engaged in or attempted to

engage in, actions or policies, including ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(B) is or has been a leader or official of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in any activity described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) is an immediate family member of a person subject to sanctions for conduct described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and benefited from the conduct of such person.

(2) BRIEF AND WRITTEN NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days after imposing sanctions on a foreign person or persons pursuant to this subsection, the President shall brief and provide written notification to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the imposition of such sanctions, which shall describe—

(A) the foreign person or persons subject to the imposition of such sanctions;

(B) the activity justifying the imposition of such sanctions; and

1 (C) the specific sanctions imposed on such
2 foreign person or persons.

3 (3) WAIVER.—The President may waive the ap-
4 plication of sanctions under this subsection with re-
5 spect to a foreign person for renewable periods not
6 to exceed 180 days if, not later than 15 days before
7 the date on which such waiver is to take effect, the
8 President submits to the appropriate committees of
9 Congress a written determination and justification
10 that the waiver is in the national security interests
11 of the United States.

12 (d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
13 scribed in this subsection are the following with respect
14 to a foreign person described in subsection (b) or (c), as
15 applicable:

16 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwith-
17 standing the requirements under section 202 of the
18 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
19 U.S.C. 1701), the President shall exercise all au-
20 thorities granted under the International Emergency
21 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to
22 the extent necessary to block and prohibit all trans-
23 actions in property and interests in property of the
24 foreign person if such property and interests in
25 property are in the United States, come within the

1 United States, or are or come within the possession
2 or control of a United States person.

3 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
4 PAROLE.—

5 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A
6 foreign person that is an alien shall be—

7 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

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

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

16 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—The for-
17 eign person shall be subject to the following:

18 (i) Revocation of any visa or other
19 entry documentation regardless of when
20 the visa or other entry documentation is or
21 was issued.

22 (ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall
23 take effect immediately and automatically
24 cancel any other valid visa or entry docu-

1 mentation that is in the foreign person's
2 possession.

3 (e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

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

9 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
10 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
11 violation of subsection (d)(2)(A) or any regulation,
12 license, or order issued under that subsection shall
13 be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections
14 (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Eco-
15 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-
16 tent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-
17 scribed in subsection (a) of that section.

18 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
19 Act, or any amendment made by this Act, may be
20 construed to limit the authority of the President to
21 designate or sanction persons pursuant to an appli-
22 cable Executive order or otherwise pursuant to the
23 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
24 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

25 (f) RULEMAKING.—

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

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

11 (g) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BROADER COR-
12 RUPTION IN GEORGIA.—

13 (1) DETERMINATION.—The President shall de-
14 termine whether there are foreign persons who, on
15 or after the date of the enactment of this Act, have
16 engaged in significant corruption in Georgia or acts
17 that are intended to undermine the peace, security,
18 stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Geor-
19 gia for the purposes of potential imposition of sanc-
20 tions pursuant to powers granted to the President
21 under the International Emergency Economic Pow-
22 ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

23 (2) REPORT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
25 days after the date of the enactment of this

1 Act, the President shall submit a report to the
2 appropriate committees of Congress that—

3 (i) identifies all foreign persons the
4 President has determined, pursuant to this
5 subsection, have engaged in significant cor-
6 ruption in Georgia or committed acts that
7 are intended to undermine the peace, secu-
8 rity, stability, sovereignty, or territorial in-
9 tegrity of Georgia;

10 (ii) the dates on which sanctions were
11 imposed; and

12 (iii) the reasons for imposing such
13 sanctions.

14 (B) FORM.—The report required under
15 subparagraph (A) shall be provided in unclassi-
16 fied form, but may include a classified annex.

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

20 (1) the date on which the President certifies to
21 the appropriate committees of Congress that the for-
22 eign person is no longer engaging in the activities
23 that led to the imposition of such sanction; or

24 (2) the sunset date described in section 7.

25 (i) EXCEPTIONS.—

1 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (A) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The
3 term “agricultural commodity” has the meaning
4 given such term in section 102 of the Agricul-
5 tural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

6 (B) GOOD.—The term “good” means any
7 article, natural or man-made substance, mate-
8 rial, supply, or manufactured product, including
9 inspection and test equipment and excluding
10 technical data.

11 (C) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term “medical
12 device” has the meaning given the term “de-
13 vice” in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug,
14 and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

15 (D) MEDICINE.—The term “medicine” has
16 the meaning given the term “drug” in section
17 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
18 Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

19 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—

20 (A) EXCEPTION RELATING TO INTEL-
21 LIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this
22 section shall not apply to—

23 (i) any activity subject to the report-
24 ing requirements under title V of the Na-

1 tional Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
2 3091 et seq.); or

3 (ii) any authorized intelligence activi-
4 ties of the United States.

5 (B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
6 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this
7 section shall not apply with respect to a foreign
8 person if admitting or paroling the person into
9 the United States is necessary to permit the
10 United States to comply with the Agreement re-
11 garding the Headquarters of the United Na-
12 tions, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947,
13 and entered into force November 21, 1947, be-
14 tween the United Nations and the United
15 States, or other applicable international obliga-
16 tions.

17 (C) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanc-
18 tions under this section shall not apply to—

19 (i) the conduct or facilitation of a
20 transaction for the provision of agricultural
21 commodities, food, medicine, medical de-
22 vices, or humanitarian assistance, or for
23 humanitarian purposes; or

1 (ii) transactions that are necessary
2 for, or related to, the activities described in
3 paragraph (1).

4 (j) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
5 GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all trans-
6 actions in all property and interests in property under this
7 section shall not include the authority or a requirement
8 to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

9 **SEC. 7. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO GEOR-**
10 **GIA.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon submission to Congress of
12 the certification described in subsection (c)—

13 (1) the Secretary of State, in consultation with
14 other heads of other relevant Federal departments
15 and agencies, should seek to further enhance people-
16 to-people contacts and academic exchanges between
17 the United States and Georgia; and

18 (2) the President, in consultation with the Sec-
19 retary of Defense, should maintain, and as appro-
20 priate, expand military co-operation with Georgia,
21 including by providing further security and defense
22 equipment ideally suited for territorial defense
23 against Russian aggression and related training,
24 maintenance, and operations support elements.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that, after the submission of the certification de-
3 scribed in subsection (c) should the Georgian government
4 take steps to re-align itself with its Euro-Atlantic agenda,
5 including significant changes to the foreign influence law,
6 the President should take steps to improve the bilateral
7 relationship between the United States and Georgia, in-
8 cluding actions to bolster Georgia’s ability to deter threats
9 from Russia and other malign actors.

10 (c) CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED.—The certification
11 described in this subsection is a certification submitted to
12 Congress by the President that Georgia has shown signifi-
13 cant and sustained progress towards reinvigorating its de-
14 mocracy and advancing its Euro-Atlantic integration.

15 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

16 This Act shall cease to have any force or effect begin-
17 ning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act.

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