



Armenian National Committee of America

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ANCA Policy Brief: H.R.7288 – The Armenian Protection Act

Following Azerbaijan's blockade and genocide of the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh), Armenian Americans join with our allies in asking you to take immediate action to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its ethnic cleansing of Artsakh's Armenians.

Support House Foreign Affairs Committee Markup of H.R.7288 – the Armenian Protection Act

H.R.7288 – the Armenian Protection Act – is a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives Lawler (R-NY), Pallone (D-NJ), Bilirakis (R-FL) and Amo (D-RI) that would temporarily prohibit the executive from exercising its waiver authority over statutory prohibitions on U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act. H.R.7288 is the House companion to [S.3000](#), introduced by Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), which passed the Senate with unanimous consent last year.

Following Azerbaijan's blockade and ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh's entire Armenian population in September, 2023 – it is imperative that the U.S. take action to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its violations of international law, and deter further military aggression against the Republic of Armenia.

For decades, successive U.S. administrations have sent military assistance to Azerbaijan's dictatorial regime in the absence of Congressional oversight through a presidential waiver authority that bypasses existing prohibitions on assistance to Azerbaijan under Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act. In 2022, the [U.S. Government Accountability Office \(USGAO\)](#) found that successive administrations **had failed to meet mandatory Congressional reporting requirements regarding the impact of U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan on regional stability, balance of power, and conflict resolution efforts.**

Lack of Congressional oversight over U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan has come amidst Baku's flagrant violation of international law – including the [torture](#) and [summary execution](#) of Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives, [destruction](#) of Armenian cultural heritage sites, the ongoing [occupation of sovereign Armenian territory](#), the [blockade and ethnic cleansing](#) of Armenian civilians, as well as escalating [crackdowns](#) against journalists, political opposition figures and human rights defenders.

Additionally, despite receiving U.S. assistance, Azerbaijan has been expanding ties with Russia and Iran – particularly in the [energy sector](#), where Azerbaijan has served as a conduit for Moscow and Tehran to bypass international sanctions. In recent weeks, Azerbaijani President Aliyev welcomed Russian President Putin in Baku, where the two agreed to expand trade partnerships – and where Azerbaijan formally announced it was joining BRICS, the intergovernmental economic bloc led by Russia and China.

The failure to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its human rights abuses, military aggression and regional destabilization has only emboldened its regime – and risks undermining Washington's credibility on the world stage at a time when U.S. leadership is needed more than ever.

As we approach the end of the 118th Congress, **the ANCA urges members to support a House Foreign Affairs Committee Markup of H.R.7288** – to reassert long-overdue Congressional oversight over U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan, hold Azerbaijan accountable for its ethnic cleansing of Artsakh, disincentivize further aggression against Armenia, and rebuke Azerbaijan's efforts to undermine U.S. interests in the South Caucasus.

