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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of Defense to certify that the Government of Azerbaijan has taken certain meaningful steps with respect to Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BILIRAKIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to certify that the Government of Azerbaijan has taken certain meaningful steps with respect to Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh region, 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. REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR ARME-**
4 **NIA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this section, and not less than
7 annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in coordina-

tion with each other national security agency such Secretary determines appropriate, shall certify to the congressional defense committees that the Government of Azerbaijan has taken meaningful steps towards the following:

(1) Uphold its commitments under the Joint Declaration.

(2) Completely withdraw all military forces from the sovereign territory of Armenia.

(3) Unconditionally release all Armenian prisoners.

(4) Cease engaging in hostilities towards Armenia.

(5) Recognize a right of return for ethnic Armenians to their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh and commit to the preservation of Armenian cultural and religious sites in Nagorno-Karabakh.

(b) SECURITY ASSISTANCE REVIEW.—If the Secretary of Defense cannot certify the information under subsection (a), such Secretary shall, not later than 14 days after the date on which any such certification is required to be made, conduct an immediate review of United States security assistance for the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter “Armenia”) to assess gaps in Armenia’s deterrence and self-defense capabilities.

1 (c) REPORT.—Upon the completion the review re-
2 quired under subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense, in
3 coordination with the Commander of the United States
4 European Command and each other national security
5 agency such Secretary determines appropriate, shall sub-
6 mit a report to the congressional defense committees that
7 includes the following:

8 (1) An assessment of the scale and nature of
9 threats to Armenia.

10 (2) An evaluation of historical and current
11 United States security assistance for Armenia in-
12 cluding International Security Cooperation Pro-
13 grams, Foreign Military Financing, and Inter-
14 national Military Education and Training support.

15 (3) Identification of gaps in Armenia's imme-
16 diate and long-term defense needs, including defense
17 articles, services, and military training.

18 (4) A summary of immediate steps the Depart-
19 ment of Defense is taking to increase security co-
20 operation with Armenia.

21 (5) Recommendations for further increasing se-
22 curity assistance for Armenia to address shortfalls in
23 Armenia's self-defense capabilities to deter aggres-
24 sion.

1 (d) FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT WAIVER DISQUALI-
2 FIED.—If the Secretary of Defense cannot certify the in-
3 formation under subsection (a), the President may not,
4 after the date that is 14 days after the date on which any
5 such certification is required to be made, exercise the
6 waiver authority provided pursuant to title II of the For-
7 eign Operations, Export Financing and related Programs
8 Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115; 22
9 U.S.C. 5812 note) under subsection (g) under the heading
10 “Assistance for the independent states of the former So-
11 viet Union”.

12 (e) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
13 FINED.—The term “congressional defense committees”
14 means the Committees on Armed Services and Appropria-
15 tions of the Senate and the House of Representatives.