



Armenian National Committee of America

1711 N Street NW | Washington DC 20036 | Tel: (202) 775-1918 | Fax: (202) 775-1918 anca@anca.org | www.anca.org

Policy Memo: Support Immediate Passage of the Armenian Protection Act (H.R.7288)

TO: Members of Congress / Congressional Staff
FROM: Tereza Yerimyan, Government Affairs Director | Alex Galitsky, ANCA Programs Director
CONTACT: legislative@anca.org | (202) 775-1918
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We are writing today to urge the Representative to co-sponsor and support immediate passage of [H.R.7288](#) – a bill to repeal the waiver authority of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, and fully enforce statutory restrictions on military assistance to Azerbaijan.

To co-sponsor, please contact Courtney Kaufman (Courtney.Kaufman@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Lawler's office, or James Johnson (James.Johnson@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Pallone's office.

The [resolution](#), introduced by Rep. Lawler (R-NY) and co-sponsored by Rep. Pallone (D-NJ), Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL), and Rep. Amo (D-RI) is the House companion to [S.3000](#), 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 through a presidential waiver authority that bypasses existing prohibitions on assistance to Azerbaijan under Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act. [As highlighted by USGAO, every presidential waiver of Section 907 has failed to meet statutory reporting requirements on whether military assistance to Azerbaijan has undermined peace and stability in the region.](#)

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 mass displacement](#) of Armenian civilians, as well as escalating [crackdowns](#) against journalists, political opposition figures and human rights defenders ahead of [sham elections](#) where Ilham Aliyev won 92% of the vote.

Azerbaijan's [rejection](#) of Washington's mediation efforts, its refusal to meet with U.S. Senior Advisor to South Caucasus Negotiations Lou Bono, and its [withdrawal](#) from the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) have demonstrated that Baku's tyrannical regime has little interest in a durable and dignified peace. **Following Azerbaijan's recent attack on Armenia in February that left 5 Armenian soldiers dead** – and amid Azerbaijan's ongoing occupation and inflammatory territorial claims over Armenia's sovereign territory – there [are serious fears of renewed military aggression against Armenia.](#)

The failure to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its human rights abuses and military aggression 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.

From its ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh, crackdowns at home and abroad, to its [expanding energy ties](#) with Russia and complicity in international [sanctions evasion](#) – it is long overdue that Azerbaijan's regime face repercussions for its behavior, and **we believe that ensuring the full enforcement of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act through the repeal of its presidential waiver authority is the only mechanism available in light of the Administration's inaction.**



18th CONGRESS
2d Session

H. R. 7288

To repeal Freedom Support Act section 907 waiver authority
with respect to assistance to Azerbaijan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 7, 2024

Mr. Lawler (for himself, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Bilirakis, and Mr. Amo) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To repeal Freedom Support Act section 907 waiver authority with respect to assistance to Azerbaijan.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Armenian Protection Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT SECTION 907 WAIVER REPEAL.

The President may not exercise the waiver authority provided pursuant to title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115) (22 U.S.C. 5812 note), under the heading “ASSISTANCE FOR THE INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION” under subsection (g), with respect to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2024 or 2025.