



**Georgian Association**

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC

April 25, 2024

**Statement on Recent Reintroduction of the Bill “On Transparency of Foreign Influence”**

The Georgian Association in the United States is alarmed by the proposed controversial Bill “On Transparency of Foreign Influence,” which contradicts Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic aspiration and democratic values enshrined in the Constitution.

Regardless of its name or description, one thing is indisputable, this bill does not serve the best interests of the Georgian people because it hinders the invaluable work of NGOs, restricts civil society and media, and curtails freedom of speech – all essential elements of a healthy democracy that Georgians desire.

The people of Georgia have been unwavering in their opinion that Euro-Atlantic integration is the right path for the country. Reintroducing the controversial bill directly threatens that future and sows further division among Georgians. Georgian society has already loudly voiced its opposition to the Bill a year ago and continues to voice it relentlessly over the past few weeks.

In our organization’s 91-year history, far from our country but carrying it close in our hearts, our members have tried to support and stand by in unity with those fighting for Georgia's independence and freedom. We call upon the Georgian-American community to raise our voices to help protect the civic space, independence, and democratic aspirations of Georgia.

*- The Board of Directors, Georgian Association in the United States*

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*Georgian Association in the USA a non profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, founded in 1932*

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