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CEEC Statement on the Georgian “Transparency of Foreign Influence” Bill and the U.S. Response

The Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), representing more than 20 million Americans of Central and Eastern European descent, reiterates its unequivocal support for the people of Georgia in their ongoing pursuit of Euro-Atlantic integration and wholeheartedly endorses the U.S. Congress’ bipartisan legislative efforts in support of this goal.

The CEEC strongly condemns the Kremlin-inspired bill “On the Transparency of Foreign Influence”, passed in the Georgian parliament, as it suppresses civic freedoms and damages Georgia’s strategic partnership with the U.S. and its Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Despite its title, the bill does not serve Georgian interests. It restricts civil society by requiring media and non-profit organizations receiving 20% of their revenue from abroad to register as “pursuing the interests of a foreign power” and imposes draconian measures for non-compliance.

Unlike democratic transparency laws, the Georgian bill is vague, undermines legal certainty, and introduces extra-judicial monitoring. It mirrors Russian and Hungarian laws. The Hungarian law was struck down by the EU, while the Russian version continues to marginalize its citizens further, banning those on the Foreign Agent list from candidacy or election observation.

Georgians have shown firm opposition to the bill through peaceful protests in Tbilisi and around the country, despite facing brutal repression by police, special forces, and thugs. The CEEC condemns the government’s use of excessive force and violence against unarmed demonstrators defending their democratic future.

Time and again, the Georgian people have manifested their commitment to stronger ties with the United States and the West. In response, the U.S. Congress has spearheaded pivotal bipartisan legislation to support Georgia’s democratic objectives and counter threats from malicious actors.

In the House, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) introduced the **Mobilizing and Enhancing Georgia’s Options for Building Accountability, Resilience, and Independence Act** ([MEGOBARI](#)). Simultaneously, a bipartisan coalition led by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, (D-NH) introduced the **Georgian People’s Act** ([GPA](#)) in the Senate. Both bills aim to maintain cooperation incentives for Georgia if it abandons the controversial law and to hold Georgian officials accountable for corruption, human rights violations, and actions that undermine Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic goals and its strategic partnership with the U.S.

The CEEC welcomes both legislative initiatives and supports their immediate passing. These acts reaffirm the United States’ 32-year dedication to supporting the Georgian people in strengthening democratic principles and governance while decisively addressing any attempts to undermine these values. Furthermore, we believe the MEGOBARI Act and the GPA are significant steps toward reinforcing U.S. national interests and security in Eurasia and the Black Sea.

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ceecadvocacy.org * ceecoalition@gmail.com * Polish American Congress, 1612 K Street NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20006