



საქართველოს პარლამენტი

## საქართველოს პარლამენტის წევრი

*June 5, 2024*

Dear Congressman Wilson,

As members of the Georgian opposition, we would like to express our deep gratitude for initiating the Mobilizing and Enhancing Georgia's Options for Building Accountability (MEGOBARI) Act in the United States Congress. We are grateful for the strong support of the American people to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as our ongoing struggle to defend our democracy and euro-Atlantic trajectory.

As the Act rightly emphasizes, the overwhelming majority of the Georgian people support Georgia's membership of the European Union and NATO, as well as a strong strategic partnership with the United States. As the Georgian Government has threatened Georgia's euro-Atlantic trajectory by re-initiating the Kremlin-inspired foreign agents law, Georgians have been steadfast in defending this trajectory. Georgians have flooded the streets of Tbilisi and other major cities as government has cracked down with unprecedented violence against opposition leaders, civil society activists, members of the media and peaceful protesters. In a perpetually deteriorating situation, dozens have been brutally beaten and unlawfully arrested, as opposition party offices have been raided by violent government-sponsored mobs. The widespread campaign of intimidation and terror against peaceful citizens of Georgia is only escalating.

As the government has increasingly turned towards authoritarianism at home, it has also become subservient to authoritarians abroad, including through the latest deal to grant the Anaklia Deep Sea Port project on the Black Sea, and other key infrastructure projects, to Chinese Government linked companies, after having essentially chased American investors out of the country. Such moves disincentivize any potential investment from non-malign actors and significantly threaten Georgia's economic and political resilience.

We are greatly appreciative of your leadership to garner bi-partisan support for the MEGOBARI Act offering the Georgian people a meaningful strengthening of our bilateral relationship. We are grateful that robust support from the United States to Georgia by facilitating democratic transformation would entail deepening preferential trade arrangements and enhancing economic ties, as well as facilitating visa liberalization for Georgian citizens. Moreover, we welcome the initiative to deepen cooperation through the MEGOBARI Act in the defense and security sector tailored to Georgia's needs. We also recognize and deeply appreciate the support committed to defend democracy and civil society on a bipartisan basis from members of the Senate.

We hope that both Congress and the Senate will work quickly and collectively to ensure the swift passage of legislation that builds on our friendship and expands assistance and support to the Georgian people, but at the same time, empowers the United States government to act against those who are oppressing the Georgian people. Only such legislation that ensures swift action, imposing specific consequences for those that undermine Georgia's democracy and engage in gross human rights violations, can have the potential of reversing this dangerous course and signal to the Georgian people that the United States stands by them in their commitment to democracy and a euro-Atlantic future.

In the coming months, as we approach a critical point in our nation's trajectory, as our citizens face unprecedented pressure and violence, as we continue to fight for our democracy and freedom, we would welcome, without reservation, the support of our partners, including, in-person visits aimed at safeguarding Georgia's democracy. We believe Congressional Delegation visits to Georgia would have great impact in supporting the resilient, freedom-loving people of Georgia and in sending a strong signal to the government of Georgia that the voice of the people cannot be forcefully silenced. In this regard, we would also plead to the U.S. Congress to commit necessary human and financial resources to ensure due electoral observation for the October parliamentary elections in Georgia as the stakes are high and our euro-Atlantic future hangs in balance at a historic crossroads.

We thank you once again for your support.

Sincerely yours,

**Citizens**

Aleko Elisashvili, Parliamentary Political Group Chair

**Euro-optimists**

Roman Gotsiridze, Parliamentary Political Group Chair

**For a National and Democratic State**

Nika Machutadze, Parliamentary Political Group Chair

**For Georgia**

Beka Liluashvili, Parliamentary Political Group Chair

**Freedom**

Nato Chkheidze, Parliamentary Political Group Chair

**Girchi**

Iago Khvichia, Parliamentary Political Group Chair

**Lelo - Partnership for Georgia**

Davit Usupashvili, Parliamentary Political Group Chair

**Reform Group**

Teona Akubardia, Parliamentary Political Group Acting Chair

**United National Movement**

Tina Bokuchava, Parliamentary Faction Chair

**Independent Members of Parliament**

Armaz Akhvlediani

David Bakradze

Tamar Charkviani

Tamar Kordzaia

Salome Samadashvili

Shalva Shavgulidze

**Party Ahali**

Nika Gvaramia, Nika Melia, Co-Chairs

**Party Droa**

Helen Khoshtaria, Chair

**Party Girchi – More Freedom**

Zurab Girchi Japaridze, Chair

**Republican Party**

Khatuna Samnidze, Chair

**Straregy Aghmashenebeli**

Giorgi Vashadze, Chair