I am writing to ask you to OPPOSE H.R.7288 - To repeal Freedom Support Act section 907 waiver authority with respect to assistance to Azerbaijan.

This bill actively harms the normalization process between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Cosponsoring H.R. 7288 would give credit to a bill that levies multiple false accusations against Azerbaijan and aims to put the United States in a position to stoke further enmity between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

What the H.R. 7288 legislation omits that Azerbaijan has been a key ally of the United States.

"Today our Embassy, led by Chargé d’Affaires Hugo Guevara, marked the anniversary of the 9-11 attacks and remembered those who lost their lives. We will never forget how Azerbaijan stood with the United States during this tragic time. #NeverForget" [Read Tweet in Twitter]

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary Erika Olson praised Azerbaijan’s contributions to NATO peacekeeping operations, putting special attention on the activities of the Azerbaijani peacekeepers in Afghanistan.

In fact, Matthew Bryza, a former U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan and Bush administration official stated “.... killing the 907 waiver at this delicate diplomatic juncture would seriously risk derailing a peace treaty that is closer than it has ever been.”

The very false narrative that is prevalent in many circles seeks to take a complicated subject matter and level accusations against Azerbaijan labeling it ethnic cleansing and genocide which completely demeans the very word.

Matthew Bryza: “US State Dept seems to attempt to undermine Azerbaijan’s great strength of religious tolerance” Ambassador Bryza pointed out that by being a secular society with a Shiite
Eighty-six spiritual Jewish authorities from Europe, America and Muslim countries, as well as dozens of Jewish religious media around the world, spoke out against the use of the Holocaust theme by Armenian political figures, including Prime Minister Pashinyan, as part of a campaign to demonize Azerbaijan.

H.R. 7288 stipulates that over 100,000 Armenians were targeted, abused, and displaced by the Government of Azerbaijan when they decided to leave Nagorno-Karabakh on their own volition, yet a United Nations team visiting Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan did not see any damage to civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and housing or to cultural and religious sites, U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Monday.

Unfortunately, the legislation seeks to strike the flames of discord when in fact Azerbaijan and Armenia are now in serious discussions regarding establishing peace between their two countries.

There are several diaspora lobbying organizations whose views DOES NOT reflect that of the government of Armenia nor represent the interest of the people of Armenia. Their raison d'etre and rationale for their very existence is to stoke the embers to
What you are not being told is that top officials of ANCA - the organization quoted in the press release, is anti Israel.

Azerbaijan remains committed to strengthening its ties with the state of Israel.

Azerbaijan is an incredibly strong ally to Israel and is its only ally in the region. In March, Azerbaijan established its first embassy in Israel, signaling ever-growing ties between the two countries. Azerbaijan has done this despite facing extreme risks.

After the Azerbaijani government announced the opening its embassy in Tel Aviv, Azerbaijan’s embassy in Tehran was attacked.

One diplomat was killed and two diplomats were injured and Azerbaijan was forced to evacuate its embassy.

Azerbaijan and Israel’s already close partnership has advanced to the next stage and is set to grow even stronger. In light of the October 7 savage attacks against Israel the people of Azerbaijan expressed their warmest condolences and stand in solidarity with the people of Israel.

Prominent Jewish leaders have publicly praised Azerbaijan for its warm relationship with the state of Israel which is in our national security interests.

Hence we appeal to you to please contact Majority Leader Scalise and urge him NOT to bring this legislation to the Floor as it will harm our national security interests and damage the United States
Thank you!
Ezra Friedlander

Kindly email AJ Sugarman in the office of Majority Leader Scalise, AJ.Sugarman@mail.house.gov as well as House Foreign Affairs Chairman Michael McCaul and urge them not to bring H.R.7288 to the Floor.

Should you have any questions and or would like to meet the ambassador of Azerbaijan to learn more about this very important subject in a candid conversation please let me know and I will be glad to arrange.

Thank you!
Ezra Friedlander

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