

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6079

To direct the Secretary of State to submit a report outlining the steps taken and plans made by the United States to end Turkey's blockade of Armenia, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. RADANOVICH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to submit a report outlining the steps taken and plans made by the United States to end Turkey's blockade of Armenia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “End the Turkish  
5 Blockade of Armenia Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT RELATING TO THE TURKISH-ARMENIAN**  
7 **BORDER.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1) United States policy toward Turkey and the  
2 south Caucasus has prioritized security, conflict res-  
3 olution, ensuring open borders and commercial cor-  
4 ridors, and regional cooperation.

5           (2) Turkey's ongoing blockade of Armenia does  
6 not promote regional security and prosperity, there-  
7 by undermining the short-term and long-term policy  
8 objectives of the United States.

9           (3) The Department of State has estimated  
10 that the blockade is inflating Armenia's transpor-  
11 tation costs by between 30 and 35 percent, thereby  
12 stifling its trade and economy.

13           (4) Turkey's blockade of Armenia has prevented  
14 United States and international humanitarian assist-  
15 ance from crossing its borders, a violation of  
16 international law, international human rights and  
17 humanitarian standards, and Turkey's commitments  
18 to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in  
19 Europe (OSCE).

20           (5) Turkey is the only Council of Europe (CE)  
21 country and NATO member to engage in a blockade  
22 against a fellow CE country and has been repeatedly  
23 urged by the European Union (EU) to open the last  
24 closed border of Europe.

1           (6) United States, Turkish, NATO-Partnership  
2           for Peace, and EU security and economic interests  
3           would be advanced if Turkey immediately and un-  
4           conditionally lifted its ongoing 15-year blockade of  
5           Armenia.

6           (7) The removal of all blockades and border clo-  
7           sures in and adjacent to the countries of the south  
8           Caucasus will provide positive incentives for United  
9           States private investment, increased trade with the  
10          West, and other forms of economic and political  
11          interactions with the global community.

12          (8) By lifting its blockade of Armenia, Turkey  
13          will be playing a constructive role in continuing the  
14          development of infrastructure necessary for regional  
15          communications, transportation, energy, and trade  
16          on an East-West axis.

17          (9) If there is to be a resolution of conflicts in  
18          the region and a reduction of tensions along borders,  
19          it is essential that the blockade of Armenia be lifted.

20          (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
21          gress that the President and Secretary of State should call  
22          upon Turkey to comply with the long-standing position of  
23          the United States that in order to restore economic, polit-  
24          ical, and cultural links with Armenia, Turkey should im-  
25          mediately lift its ongoing blockade with Armenia.

1           (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
3 submit to Congress a report that outlines the steps taken  
4 and plans made by the United States to end Turkey’s  
5 blockade of Armenia.

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