

HRES 537

Promoting United States national security and foreign policy objectives through consolidation and strengthening of the rule of law and respect for human rights in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Sep 26, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats. (Nov 29, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/537>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Sep 26, 2017
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Feb 2, 2018
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Feb 2, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 29, 2017
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 29, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Affirms the importance of the U.S. partnership with the government of Azerbaijan in the areas of international security, European energy security, and economic development.

Calls on the U.S. government:

- in its diplomatic engagement and delivery of bilateral assistance, to prioritize as a matter of strategic importance its response to Azerbaijan's violations of universally recognized human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law to ensure the long-term sustainability of the U.S.-Azerbaijani bilateral partnership;
- to closely evaluate reporting to identify and impose travel and financial restrictions on Azerbaijan officials responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act; and
- to closely evaluate reporting to identify and impose travel restrictions on Azerbaijan officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom, pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

Calls on the government of Azerbaijan to release all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, rehabilitate their records, lift travel bans, and cease harassment, intimidation, and mistreatment of citizens engaged in political speech, independent journalism, and other forms of advocacy on behalf of government accountability, democratic values, and universally recognized human rights.

Supports the peaceful efforts of the people of Azerbaijan to achieve democratic reform and exercise their fundamental freedoms.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 29, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Nov 29, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.
- **Sep 26, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 26, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.