

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. R. No. 367

Representative Smith, T.

Cosponsors: Representatives Becker, Brinkman, Robinson

A R E S O L U T I O N

To condemn Azerbaijan's coordinated offensive in 1
Nagorno-Karabakh, to denounce Turkish 2
interference in the conflict, and to urge the 3
United States Department of State to work for an 4
enduring peace based on a recognition of the 5
Artsakh people's right to self-determination. 6

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a 7
territory located in the South Caucasus region that has 8
historically been populated by ethnic Armenians and is governed 9
by the Republic of Artsakh; and 10

WHEREAS, The people of Artsakh overwhelmingly voted to 11
support independence. On December 10, 1991, despite continued 12
violence against the people of Artsakh, a popular referendum 13
proclaiming an independent republic took place during the 14
disintegration of the Soviet Union. Under the watchful eye of 15
more than 50 international observers, and in full compliance 16
with international standards for a free and fair election, more 17
than 80 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot, and the 18
measure passed with 98 per cent in favor. On January 6, 1992, 19
the democratically elected Parliament of Artsakh adopted the 20

Declaration of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic; 21
and 22

WHEREAS, Since September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan has engaged 23
in the most significant military operation along the line of 24
contact with Nagorno-Karabakh since the signing of the ceasefire 25
agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia in 1994. This attack 26
follows increasingly aggressive rhetoric and destabilizing 27
actions on the part of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev's 28
government towards Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, including a 29
July 2020 Defense Ministry threat to bomb Armenia's Metsamor 30
Nuclear Power Plant; and 31

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan's ongoing military offensive, which 32
includes the shelling of Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's most 33
densely populated city with a population of 55,200, has resulted 34
in dozens of civilian deaths and hundreds of civilian woundings. 35
The conflict has resulted in the deaths of at least 84 Nagorno- 36
Karabakh service members; and 37

WHEREAS, Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have declared martial 38
law, mobilized their armed forces, and called up reserve forces; 39
and 40

WHEREAS, According to multiple news reports, Azerbaijan's 41
military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh may be part of a planned 42
military operation. The conflict follows joint military 43
exercises conducted by Turkey and Azerbaijan in August 2020. 44
News accounts state that in weeks before Azerbaijan's military 45
operation, Turkey recruited mercenaries from Syria and has 46
facilitated their deployment to Azerbaijan. Additionally, the 47
Armenian Foreign Ministry claims that Turkey is operating F-16 48
fighter jets in the region and has shot down an Armenian Su-25 49
fighter jet in Armenian airspace, killing the pilot; and 50

WHEREAS, The conflict has the potential to escalate into 51
proxy warfare among regional powers, including Turkey, and to 52

further entrench the conflict and threaten peace and stability 53
in the region. The United States, France, and Russia serve as 54
co-chairs of the Minsk Group tasked with finding a peaceful 55
resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The co-chairs have 56
urged a cease-fire and advised the parties to return to 57
substantive negotiations as soon as possible. The European Union 58
and the United Nations support a peaceful resolution and 59
immediate cease-fire; now therefore be it 60

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 61
Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of 62
Ohio, condemn Azerbaijan's coordinated offensive in Nagorno- 63
Karabakh and denounce Turkish interference in the conflict; and 64
be it further 65

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 66
Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of 67
Ohio, urge the United States Department of State to work, with 68
the co-chairs of the Minsk Group and the governments of Armenia, 69
Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Artsakh, for an enduring peace 70
based on a recognition of the Artsakh people's right to self- 71
determination; and be it further 72

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 73
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 74
President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, 75
the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of 76
Representatives, the President of the United States, the United 77
States Secretary of State, the members of the Ohio Congressional 78
delegation, and the news media of Ohio. 79