



Washington, D.C.

ACS Welcomes Passage of Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act in the U.S. House of Representatives

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The American Coalition for Syria (ACS), a diverse alliance of U.S.-based organizations united in advocating for a principled U.S.-Syria policy centered on democratic reforms, human rights, and accountability, is thrilled to announce a significant bipartisan triumph in legislative advocacy. The House of Representatives has voted 389 to 32 to pass the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act (H.R. 3202).

This groundbreaking legislation mandates as a Statement of Policy that the U.S. will not recognize or normalize relations with any Syrian government under the leadership of Bashar al-Assad, a war criminal. It also further bolsters the sanctions outlined in the Caesar Act of 2019 by extending its provisions, set to expire in 2024, until 2032. Additionally, it requires developing an interagency strategy and an annual report to Congress to counter Assad's normalization.

This legislative success highlights ACS's relentless and strategic advocacy efforts in collaboration with the bill's author, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC). Since its introduction in May 2023, ACS has been instrumental in garnering bipartisan backing, demonstrating the Syrian American community's significant impact on shaping policy decisions. Over the course of 327 meetings and office visits, ACS and a robust coalition of Syrian humanitarian and human rights NGOs consistently clarified the legislation's intention and goals and secured Congressional support.

Today marks a landmark achievement in our legislative journey. The passage of the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act is a testament to the power of collective action and the relentless pursuit of justice for the Syrian people." Ghanem continued, "We express our deepest gratitude to Congressman Wilson, a true ally in the Syrian quest for freedom and justice, for his unwavering commitment. This legislative achievement is a decisive step in challenging the regional normalization of Assad and reaffirms the U.S.'s commitment to a principled foreign policy. This bill is the most impactful U.S.-Syria policy legislation passed since the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act in December 2019".

Mohammad Alaa Ghanem, ACS's Policy Chief

As ACS celebrates this milestone, the coalition is committed to ensuring the bill's passage in the Senate and obtaining the President's signature. This victory marks a pivotal moment in U.S.-Syria policy and exemplifies the positive influence and resilience of the Syrian American community and its allies in shaping policies that uphold democratic principles, human rights, and accountability. ACS thanks all individuals and organizations that contributed to the success of this legislation.