

Four Greek American Republican members of Congress are pushing back against their own president over a proposed \$700 million sale of US fighter jet engines to Turkey. Representatives Gus Bilirakis, Nicole Malliotakis, Mike Haridopoulos, and Jimmy Patronis issued a joint statement saying they are "deeply concerned" about reports that the Trump administration plans to move forward with the deal.

The engines in question are General Electric F110-129E units, expected to power Turkey's domestically developed KAAN combat aircraft. The sale was formally notified to Congress, giving lawmakers a 15-day window to introduce a resolution of disapproval, though blocking it entirely would require passing both chambers and surviving a potential presidential veto.

The four lawmakers argue that Turkey has done nothing to deserve the upgrade. They point to Ankara's continued possession of Russia's S-400 air defense system, the reason Turkey was kicked out of the F-35 program in 2019, as well as Turkey's refusal to sanction Russia over the Ukraine invasion, its close ties to Hamas, its illegal occupation of Northern Cyprus, and its disputed maritime claims in the Eastern Mediterranean.

What makes the opposition notable is who it's coming from. These are Republicans, including Florida lawmakers who received Trump's direct endorsement. Jimmy Patronis was personally urged by Trump to run for Congress and received his "Complete and Total Endorsement." Mike Haridopoulos, a former president of the Florida Senate, has also publicly highlighted Trump's backing. Their defection signals the pushback is not just from the usual Democratic critics.

The lawmakers said they are actively engaging both the Trump administration and House leadership to get more details on the proposed sale. They also repeated their firm opposition to any effort to return Turkey to the F-35 program unless Ankara fully complies with CAATSA, the sanctions law that triggered Turkey's removal from the program in the first place. Congress is watching closely, with House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast expected to be briefed separately on the F-35 question and Turkey's S-400 situation.