

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 799

Congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting free, fair, and transparent parliamentary elections on March 26, 2006, and commending their commitment to democracy and reform.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting free, fair, and transparent parliamentary elections on March 26, 2006, and commending their commitment to democracy and reform.

Whereas the 2004 Orange Revolution, in which hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens engaged in peaceful demonstrations in Kiev and elsewhere to protest the unfair runoff presidential election on November 21, 2004, and the declaration by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission that Viktor Yanukovich had won a majority of the votes, set Ukraine on the path toward democracy;

Whereas on December 26, 2004, following a ruling of the Ukrainian Supreme Court that the runoff presidential election was invalid and that a new election be held, the

people of Ukraine again went to the polls in what the consensus of domestic and international observers declared as a more democratic, transparent, and fair election process with fewer problems than in the first round and invalidated November 21, 2004, vote;

Whereas on January 10, 2005, the election victory of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko as President was certified by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission;

Whereas the United States maintains strong and friendly relations with the people and Government of Ukraine;

Whereas the elections to Ukraine's parliament, known as Verkhovna Rada, were held on March 26, 2006;

Whereas the March 26, 2006, elections were the first parliamentary elections since 2002 and reflect the provisions of a new election law that calls for the Verkhovna Rada to be elected according to the proportional election system with votes allocated to political parties rather than the previous law under which half of the representatives were elected on a proportional basis and half were elected directly on a district-by-district basis;

Whereas the parliament was elected in a free and fair multiparty election and in accordance with international standards;

Whereas the conduct of these elections provide further evidence that the people of Ukraine are building a democratic society based on free elections, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas Ukraine is one of 55 participating States in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), all of which have adopted the 1990 Copenhagen

Document containing specific commitments relating to the conduct of elections;

Whereas the OSCE-led International Observation Mission deemed the election to be basically in accordance with the 1990 Copenhagen Document and respected the fundamental and civil rights, such as freedom of expression and assembly, allowing voters to make informed choices;

Whereas democratic elections are instrumental in furthering Ukraine's stated desire to integrate into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas on February 17, 2006, the United States announced it had granted Ukraine the status of market economy and on March 6, 2006 the United States and Ukraine signed a market accession agreement promoting bilateral economic cooperation and bringing Ukraine closer to accession to the World Trade Organization;

Whereas on March 23, 2006, President George W. Bush signed into law legislation terminating the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (commonly known as the "Jackson-Vanik amendment") to Ukraine and granting Ukraine permanent normal trade relations; and

Whereas 2006 was designated in Ukraine as the year of reforms in the areas of court and administrative systems, energy saving, municipal economy, health protection, agriculture, education and pension provision: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) commends the people and Government of
2 Ukraine for holding free, fair, and transparent par-
3 liamentary elections on March 26, 2006;

4 (2) commends the people and Government of
5 Ukraine for their commitment to democracy and
6 freedom; and

7 (3) acknowledges and welcomes the strong rela-
8 tionship between the United States and Ukraine and
9 pledges its continued support for the strengthening
10 of a fully free and open democratic system in
11 Ukraine, and reaffirms its support for Ukraine's
12 independence, territorial sovereignty, and Ukraine's
13 full integration into the international community of
14 democracies.

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