

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act”.

SEC. 2. CONTINUING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STILLBIRTH, SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue activities related to still birth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including, as appropriate—

(1) *collecting information, such as socio-demographic, death scene investigation, clinical history, and autopsy information, on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood through the utilization of existing surveillance systems and collaborating with States to improve the quality, consistency, and collection of such data;*

(2) *disseminating information to educate the public, health care providers, and other stakeholders on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood; and*

(3) *collaborating with the Attorney General, State and local departments of health, and other experts, as appropriate, to provide consistent information for medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement personnel, and health care providers related to death scene investigations and autopsies for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood, in order to improve the quality and consistency of the data collected at such death scenes and to promote consistent reporting on the cause of death after autopsy to inform prevention, intervention, and other activities.*

(b) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report that includes a description of any activities that are being carried out by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, related to stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including those activities identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act shall not be construed to increase the amount of appropriations that are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.”.

Mr. BILIRAKIS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Senate amendments be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the

House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 758) strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under President Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 758

Whereas the Russian Federation has subjected Ukraine to a campaign of political, economic, and military aggression for the purpose of establishing its domination over the country and progressively erasing its independence;

Whereas the Russian Federation's invasion of, and military operations on, Ukrainian territory represent gross violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and a violation of international law, including the Russian Federation's obligations under the United Nations Charter;

Whereas the Russian Federation has, since February 2014, violated each of the 10 principles of the 1975 Helsinki Accords in its relations with Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation's forcible occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea and its continuing support for separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine are violations of its obligations under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, in which it pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation has provided military equipment, training, and other assistance to separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine that has resulted in over 4,000 civilian deaths, hundreds of thousands of civilian refugees, and widespread destruction;

Whereas the Ukrainian military remains at a significant disadvantage compared to the armed forces of the Russian Federation in terms of size and technological sophistication;

Whereas the United States strongly supports efforts to assist Ukraine to defend its territory and sovereignty against military aggression by the Russian Federation and by separatist forces;

Whereas the terms of the cease-fire specified in the Minsk Protocol that was signed on September 5, 2014, by representatives of the Government of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the Russian-led separatists in the eastern area of Ukraine have been repeatedly violated by the Russian Federation and the separatist forces it supports;

Whereas separatist forces in areas they controlled in eastern Ukraine prevented the holding of elections on May 25, 2014, for a new President of Ukraine and on October 26, 2014, for a new Rada, thereby preventing the

people of eastern Ukraine from exercising their democratic right to select their candidates for office in free and fair elections;

Whereas on November 2, 2014, separatist forces in eastern Ukraine held fraudulent and illegal elections in areas they controlled for the supposed purpose of choosing leaders of the illegitimate local political entities they have declared;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to provide the military, political, and economic support without which the separatist forces could not continue to maintain their areas of control;

Whereas the reestablishment of peace and security in Ukraine requires the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory, the resumption of the Government of Ukraine's control over all of the country's international borders, the disarming of the separatist and paramilitary forces in the east, an end to Russia's use of its energy exports and trade barriers to apply economic and political pressure, and an end to Russian interference in Ukraine's internal affairs;

Whereas Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, a civilian airliner, was destroyed by a missile fired by Russian-backed separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, resulting in the loss of 298 innocent lives;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to supply the vast majority of arms purchases, which include anti-aircraft missile systems and other lethal weapons, to the Bashar Assad regime in Syria, a state sponsor of terrorism that is actively backed by Hezbollah, a sophisticated terrorist group hostile to the United States and its close allies;

Whereas the Russian Federation has protected the Assad regime and backed its brutal assault against the Syrian people;

Whereas the Russian Federation has used and is continuing to use coercive economic measures, including the manipulation of energy prices and supplies, as well as trade restrictions, to place political and economic pressure on Ukraine;

Whereas France agreed to sell to the Russian Federation two Mistral-class amphibious assault ships in 2011 for \$1.7 billion;

Whereas Russian possession of these ships would be a destabilizing addition to the Russian military, which would likely have boosted its ability to invade Crimea;

Whereas given the Russian invasion of sovereign territory of the Republic of Ukraine in Crimea and elsewhere and its dangerous behavior throughout the region, France decided to suspend delivery of the Mistral-class warships to the Russian Federation;

Whereas purchase of the two Mistral-class warships by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries would expand NATO's capabilities, resolve France's legitimate concern over the cost of the ships, and eliminate a potential threat to countries in Eastern Europe;

Whereas the Russian Federation invaded the Republic of Georgia in August 2008, continues to station military forces in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and is implementing measures intended to progressively integrate these regions into the Russian Federation, including by signing a “treaty” between Georgia's Abkhazia Region and the Russian Federation on November 24, 2014;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to subject the Republic of Georgia to political and military intimidation, economic coercion, and other forms of aggression in an effort to establish its control of the country and to prevent Georgia from establishing closer relations with the European Union and the United States;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to station military forces in the

Transnistria region of Moldova in violation of the express will of the Government of Moldova and of its Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) commitments;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to provide support to the illegal separatist regime in the Transnistria region of Moldova;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to subject Moldova to political and military intimidation, economic coercion, and other forms of aggression in an effort to establish its control of the country and to prevent efforts by Moldova to establish closer relations with the European Union and the United States;

Whereas the Russian Federation acceded to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty obligation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in a declaration issued at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in October 1992;

Whereas under the terms of the INF Treaty, a flight-test or deployment of any INF-banned weapon delivery vehicle by the Russian Federation constitutes a militarily significant violation of the INF Treaty;

Whereas on April 2, 2014, the Commander, U.S. European Command, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Breedlove, stated that, "A weapon capability that violates the INF, that is introduced into the greater European land mass is absolutely a tool that will have to be dealt with. . . I would not judge how the alliance will choose to react, but I would say they will have to consider what to do about it. . . It can't go unanswered.";

Whereas on July 29, 2014, the United States Department of State released its report on the Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments, as required by Section 403 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act, for calendar year 2013, which found that, "[t]he United States has determined that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty not to possess, produce, or flight-test a ground-launched cruise missile (GLCM) with a range capability of 500 km to 5,500 km, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles";

Whereas concerns also exist with respect to a new Russian ballistic missile, the RS-26, which, according to reports, has been tested on multiple occasions at intermediate ranges, and in different configurations, which would be covered by the interpretative statements the United States Senate relied upon when it ratified the INF Treaty in May 1988;

Whereas the Russian Federation has requested the approval of new sensors and new aircraft to be flown over the United States and Europe as part of the Treaty on Open Skies, and serious concerns have been raised regarding impacts to United States national security if such approval is given;

Whereas on November 11, 2014, the Commander, U.S. European Command, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Breedlove, stated that, Russian forces "capable of being nuclear" are being moved to the Crimea Peninsula;

Whereas according to reports, the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly engaged in the infiltration of, and attacks on, computer networks of the United States Government, as well as individuals and private entities, for the purpose of illicitly acquiring information and disrupting operations, including by supporting Russian individuals and entities engaged in these actions;

Whereas the political, military, and economic aggression against Ukraine and other

countries by the Russian Federation underscores the enduring importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as the cornerstone of collective Euro-Atlantic defense;

Whereas the United States reaffirms its obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, especially Article 5 which states that "an armed attack against one or more" of the treaty signatories "shall be considered an attack against them all";

Whereas the Russian Federation is continuing to use its supply of energy as a means of political and economic coercion against Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and other European countries;

Whereas the United States strongly supports energy diversification initiatives in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and other European countries to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use its supply of energy for political and economic coercion, including the development of domestic sources of energy, increased efficiency, and substituting Russian energy resources with imports from other countries;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to conduct an aggressive propaganda effort in Ukraine in which false information is used to subvert the authority of the legitimate national government, undermine stability, promote ethnic dissension, and incite violence;

Whereas the Russian Federation has expanded the presence of its state-sponsored media in national languages across central and western Europe with the intent of using news and information to distort public opinion and obscure Russian political and economic influence in Europe;

Whereas expanded efforts by United States international broadcasting across all media in the Russian and Ukrainian languages are needed to counter Russian propaganda and to provide the people of Ukraine and the surrounding regions with access to credible and balanced information;

Whereas the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated continue to represent a minority market share in Ukraine and other regional states with significant ethno-linguistic Russian populations who increasingly obtain their local and international news from Russian state-sponsored media outlets;

Whereas the United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions Act of 2014 (PL 113-96) requires the Voice of America and RFE/RL, Incorporated to provide programming content to target populations in Ukraine and Moldova 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including at least 8 weekly hours of total original video and television content and 14 weekly hours of total audio content while expanding cooperation with local media outlets and deploying greater content through multimedia platforms and mobile devices; and

Whereas Vladimir Putin has established an increasingly authoritarian regime in the Russian Federation through fraudulent elections, the persecution and jailing of political opponents, the elimination of independent media, the seizure of key sectors of the economy and enabling supporters to enrich themselves through widespread corruption, and implementing a strident propaganda campaign to justify Russian aggression against other countries and repression in Russia, among other actions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly supports the efforts by President Poroshenko and the people of Ukraine to establish a lasting peace in their country that includes the full withdrawal of Russian forces from the territory of Ukraine, full control of Ukraine's international borders,

the disarming of separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine, the adoption of policies to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use energy exports and trade barriers as weapons to apply economic and political pressure, and an end to interference by the Russian Federation in the internal affairs of Ukraine;

(2) affirms the right of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and all countries to exercise their sovereign rights within their internationally recognized borders free from outside intervention, and to conduct their foreign policy in accordance with their determination of the best interests of their peoples;

(3) condemns the continuing political, economic, and military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova and the continuing violation of their sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity;

(4) states that the military intervention by the Russian Federation in Ukraine—

(A) is in breach of its obligations under the United Nations Charter;

(B) is in clear violation of each of the 10 principles of the 1975 Helsinki Accords;

(C) is in violation of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in which it pledged to respect the independence, sovereignty, and existing borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat of the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine; and

(D) poses a threat to international peace and security;

(5) calls on the Russian Federation to reverse its illegal annexation of Crimea, to end its support of the separatist forces in Crimea, and to remove its military forces from that region other than those operating in strict accordance with its 1997 agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet Stationing on the Territory of Ukraine;

(6) calls on the President to cooperate with United States allies and partners in Europe and other countries around the world to refuse to recognize any *de jure* or *de facto* sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters;

(7) calls on the Russian Federation to remove its military forces and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, and to end its political, military, and economic support of separatist forces;

(8) calls on the Russian Federation and the separatist forces it supports and controls in Ukraine to end their violations of the ceasefire announced in Minsk on September 5, 2014;

(9) calls on the President to cooperate with United States allies and partners in Europe and other countries around the world to impose visa bans, targeted asset freezes, sectoral sanctions, and other measures on the Russian Federation and its leadership with the goal of compelling it to end its violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to remove its military forces and equipment from Ukrainian territory, and to end its support of separatist and paramilitary forces;

(10) calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with lethal and non-lethal defense articles, services, and training required to effectively defend its territory and sovereignty;

(11) calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with appropriate intelligence and other relevant information in a timely manner to assist the Government of Ukraine to defend its territory and sovereignty;

(12) calls on North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and United States partners in Europe and other nations around the world to suspend all military cooperation with Russia, including prohibiting the sale to the Russian Government of lethal and non-lethal military equipment;

(13) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, especially Article 5, and calls on all Alliance member states to provide their full share of the resources needed to ensure their collective defense;

(14) urges the President, in consultation with Congress, to conduct a review of the force posture, readiness, and responsibilities of United States Armed Forces and the forces of other members of NATO to determine if the contributions and actions of each are sufficient to meet the obligations of collective self-defense under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and to specify the measures needed to remedy any deficiencies;

(15) welcomes the decision of France to indefinitely suspend the delivery of the Mistral-class warships to the Russian Federation and urges the United States, France, NATO, and other partners to engage in consultations and consider all alternative acquisition options for such warships which would not include transfer of the ships to the Russian Federation;

(16) urges the President to publicly hold the Russian Federation accountable for violations of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and to take action to bring the Russian Federation back into compliance with the Treaty;

(17) urges the President to work with Asian, European, and other allies to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure the Russian Federation is not able to gain any benefit by its development of military systems that violate the INF Treaty;

(18) believes the emplacement by the Russian Federation of its nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory would constitute a provocative and destabilizing move;

(19) calls on Ukraine and other countries to support energy diversification initiatives to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use its energy exports as a means of applying political or economic pressure, including by promoting energy efficiency and reverse natural gas flows from Western Europe, and calls on the United States to promote increased natural gas exports and energy efficiency;

(20) calls on the President and the United States Department of State to develop a strategy for multilateral coordination to produce or otherwise procure and distribute news and information in the Russian language to countries with significant Russian-speaking populations which maximizes the use of existing platforms for content delivery such as the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, leverages indigenous public-private partnerships for content production, and seeks in-kind contributions from regional state governments;

(21) calls on the United States Department of State to identify positions at key diplomatic posts in Europe to evaluate the political, economic, and cultural influence of Russia and Russian state-sponsored media and to coordinate with host governments on appropriate responses;

(22) calls on the Russian Federation to cease its support for the Assad regime in Syria;

(23) calls on the President to publicly and privately demand the Russian Federation cease its destabilizing behavior at every opportunity and in every engagement between

the United States and its officials and the Russian Federation and its officials;

(24) calls upon the Russian Federation to seek a mutually beneficial relationship with the United States that is based on respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries and their right to freely determine their future, including their relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries; and

(25) calls for the reestablishment of a close and cooperative relationship between the people of the United States and the Russian people based on the shared pursuit of democracy, human rights, and peace among all nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 758 and commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for his work in bringing this important measure to the floor tonight. I also commend the work of our great chairman, Chairman ROYCE, and our fabulous ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), for their work on this critical issue.

As this resolution documents, Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin has repeatedly demonstrated that he is a threat not just to our friends and allies, but to international peace and stability. From Ukraine, Moldova, and the Republic of Georgia, to arms control violations and support for the Assad regime in Syria, Putin's continuing military, economic, and political aggression against Ukraine and others is on full display. Of course, his most dramatic action was the forcible occupation and annexation of Crimea earlier this year.

Today, as we consider this resolution, Russian forces are operating on Ukrainian soil supporting separatists that they have heavily armed. The apparent intent of the Russian-backed separatists is to carve out an area that Russia will be able to permanently dominate. This is not what the people of Ukraine want.

Already, thousands of Ukrainians have died in the fighting, and hundreds of thousands have been made refugees, with many more suffering severe deprivation. The destruction of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 demonstrated the threat to civilians in this conflict, but

many more have been killed in the months since; yet these tragedies go mostly unnoticed in the West.

Ukraine is not asking the U.S. to defend it against Russia, but instead to provide it with the means with which it can defend its people and its sovereignty, but the administration has refused to do so, instead, restricting U.S. assistance to small amounts of nonlethal goods and equipment.

As Ukraine's President said when he addressed us in Congress in September, one cannot win a war with blankets. Ukraine is clearly in need of urgent military assistance. The administration must act quickly to equip it with the means not just to clothe its soldiers, but to stop tanks as well.

The assault on Ukraine isn't being carried out by military means alone. Putin has also attempted to use economic coercion on Ukraine. He has used Russia's supply of energy to Ukraine and to other countries, including many in the European Union, as a political weapon, shutting off deliveries in the middle of winter.

The United States and our friends and allies in Europe and around the world are taking action to ensure that he and his regime pay a heavy price for this aggression. By imposing sanctions on key sectors, especially financial institutions and the oil sector, we have put enormous pressure on the Russian economy, which its officials openly admit.

More needs to be done, Mr. Speaker. We must also counter Russia's ability to use energy as a weapon. The U.S. can play an important role in this effort simply by removing the unilateral restrictions we have imposed on our export of natural gas.

Finally, we must work with our allies in NATO to enhance the security of the Baltic States and other countries of the alliance that are menaced by Russian aggression. A perceived weakness could lead to miscalculation on Moscow's part with incalculable consequences. No one should doubt our commitment to NATO.

Through these and other measures, Mr. Speaker, we can demonstrate to Putin and the world that we will do what is necessary to protect Ukraine and other countries that are threatened by his imperial ambitions and ensure that they can live in peace and security.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 758.

Mr. Speaker, after the cold war, we all hoped that Russia would emerge as a modern power, governed by democratic norms, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Regrettably, things didn't turn out that way. It is time to recognize the fact that Russia, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, is a threat to European security and to U.S. interests in the region.

We must be clear that our concerns are not directed toward the Russian people. In fact, as Putin tightens his grip, his own citizens are among those suffering the most. Basic freedoms are under attack. The media has become a mouthpiece for Putin and his cronies, and as Russia continues its aggression in Ukraine, international sanctions are hitting home, dragging down Russia's economy.

Nevertheless, we have high hopes for those inside Russia who seek an alternative, who want a brighter future for their country and for their children, so this resolution encourages the establishment of close and cooperative ties between the people of the United States and the people of Russia.

It pains me that Putin has effectively destroyed democracy in Russia. We must let the Russian people know that we stand by them against this tyrant. We need to keep supporting those in Russia who are struggling against tough odds to keep the media and civil space open, to share ideas that originate beyond the Kremlin's walls, to shine a light on the corruption in Moscow and the misinformation on the airwaves.

I think this resolution sends an important message, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for taking the lead on this important issue, but I also think we should be doing more, and I am pleased to be working with Chairman ROYCE on new legislation to support Ukraine and further penalize Russia for its continued trampling of Ukrainian sovereignty.

I am also pleased that this resolution lays out Congress' strong opposition to France's sale of two Mistral warships to Russia, a key priority of mine over the last several months. We should all thank France for indefinitely suspending transfer of the ship to Russia, but I think we can go even further, with NATO buying or leasing the ships.

I believe that this would be a win-win: a win for NATO, which would acquire these powerful ships; a win for France, whose legitimate financial interests would be addressed; and a win for the countries in Eastern Europe, which would be further threatened if Russia, indeed, had these vessels.

Among those countries under Moscow's pressure are Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, where Russia continues to stoke separatism. There was a vote recently in Moldova which rejected Putin and his nonsense, and I was happy to see it.

In the Baltic States and elsewhere, Russian propaganda fills the airwaves, spreading deceptions about the West. Across Eastern Europe, millions wait with apprehension to see what Putin will do next. They have good reason. We know that he is willing to flout international law and trample his neighbors' sovereignty, so better to stand up to a bully now than to try to reverse his future gains.

When Putin talks about going into Crimea to protect ethnic Russians, it

sounds to me a very lot like Hitler in 1938 who said he was going in to Czechoslovakia to the Sudetenland to protect ethnic Germans.

During the cold war, the United States stared down the Soviet Union at the height of its power and refused to blink. We sided with those behind the Iron Curtain who stood up for their universal rights.

Today, those rights are once again under threat; so, my colleagues, let's pass this resolution, and let's keep working to meet the challenge of Russia's growing aggression.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of this important measure.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for yielding the time. Thanks to the committee and the leadership for bringing this very important issue forward.

Russia's continuing political, military, and economic aggression against Ukraine, as well as Georgia and Moldova, must be addressed; in short, this aggression will not stand. Mankind everywhere has a responsibility to stand up for territorial integrity and sovereignty in Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.

U.S. and European sanctions, to date, have unfortunately not caused Russia to change course. It is imperative that this body continues to pressure Russia and remain focused on exposing their illegal actions.

Mr. Putin would love nothing more than the world to simply not take notice or not have the political will to directly push back against his illegal annexation of Crimea. In fact, there is some who would promote a policy of appeasement for political, business, or other purposes against Russia.

That approach is woefully short-sighted and naive and underestimates what Mr. Putin's regime is capable of throughout Eastern Europe and now, unfortunately, the Middle East.

The U.S., Europe, and our allies must aggressively keep the pressure on Mr. Putin to encourage him to change his behavior. Sadly, Mr. Putin will only respond to raw power, and we must remain unified in our opposition to the annexation of Crimea and continued efforts to destabilize eastern Ukraine. We must be willing to change Mr. Putin's calculation to make it far too costly for him to continue down this path.

My constituents in Illinois have been shocked by Russia's military aggression into Ukraine, and over the past year, they have been afraid that we are moving into a second cold war. I agree with my constituents and believe Putin has alienated all the Western countries he ostensibly was trying to woo by the Sochi Olympics and is on the path to reigniting a second cold war.

Moreover, Putin has enraged the world by denying Russia's involvement in the death of 200 civilian passengers on a commercial Malaysian airplane from Holland to Malaysia in the spring of 2014.

□ 1815

Russia, sending arms and rockets to the Russian-aligned forces in Ukraine, was the match that lit the fire for this heinous act.

On another note, I have had the opportunity to visit the country of Georgia on several occasions over the past few years and have been impressed with its people and their political aspirations. I have personally witnessed Russian troops in Georgia, where they continue to occupy Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In the same way Crimea should be returned to Ukraine, Russia should immediately withdraw its troops from Georgia.

The recent "treaty" between Georgia's Abkhazia region and the Russian Federation is a farce. Abkhazia and South Ossetia remain integral parts of Georgia and deserve to be part of an independent, sovereign Georgia.

It is long past time to stand up to Mr. Putin and his wars of opportunities in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, and I would urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank Chairman ROYCE for his strong leadership on this and many other issues that have come before the Foreign Affairs Committee this past Congress. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The past 2 years have been an extremely tumultuous time for the world. I am extremely proud of this committee's work to directly confront the problems quickly and with clear, unified voice.

While I can't thank everyone, I would like to specifically thank the following staff for their tremendous diligence and hard work: Tom Sheehy, Edward Burrier, Doug Seay, Elizabeth Heng, and, out of my personal office, Michael Essington. You have been wonderful to work with on this committee, and I am sure you will continue the hard work in the next Congress as we confront a world that is severely lacking in global American leadership.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much.

Let me express my appreciation to the author of this bill, Mr. KINZINGER, and to the managers on the bill, as well as, in particular, to thank the ranking member, the chairman, and, of course, the manager today. Thank you for your leadership.

I associate myself with Congressman ENGEL's remarks about leaving a space for affirmation of the Russian people but to make it very clear that we condemn the actions of Mr. Putin. Maybe calling him that is even too polite.

Remember the days of Gorbachev when we understood that there was an open Russia, there was a Russia who was committed to working for world peace, standing on their own principles and values and history, not denying their strength, but yet working collaboratively in a civilized way. What happened to that Russia? What happened to the Russia that was supposed to be shown to the world during the Olympics? What happened to the Russia that believed in its great history and was prepared to stand alongside of all world leaders to make a better place?

The taking over, the dominance, the literal invasion of Crimea was intolerable and an unacceptable action by a nation that calls itself “standing civilized with other nations.” The horrific tragedy of Malaysian Airlines and what many of us viewed around the world as we watched bodies being unattended and thugs not allowing persons to come and see to those bodies, how long they languished in those fields.

So I think it is important to ask the question of Mr. Putin: What has happened to the Russia that we have known?

I would say that this resolution condemns the actions of the government and the leadership of the government, but not the Russian people. I look forward to legislation coming forward that we all will debate on how we interact with the Russian people and provide the freedom of press and the freedom of speech and the opportunities for them.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude my remarks, I would be remiss not to be able to acknowledge Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, who has an excellent bill on the floor, H. Res. 714, but to be able to say to him, I consider him a great American and a representative of his community and his region and all that he has done to turn our attention to south China, east China, and the Asian Pacific region. We are grateful for what he has done and grateful for his service. I thank him very much and wish for the continued support of his legislation and his service to this country.

Let me also say that I support S. 2673, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, and look forward to its passage.

Again, in conclusion, I hope that this legislation, the underlying legislation, is a statement on behalf of America, of what we mean and what we stand for.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio, MARCY KAPTUR, who has been a leader in Ukraine freedom and other issues involving Eastern Europe.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and colleague, the ranking member, Congressman ELIOT ENGEL of New York, for yielding me this time, and also wish to thank the chair, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, obvi-

ously Chairman ROYCE, Congressman KINZINGER, all those who have brought this important resolution to the floor, and I rise in support.

Let me just say that the actions of Russia have truly disappointed any liberty-loving person that exists on the face of the Earth. I think this resolution further undergirds the high regard this Nation places on the value of liberty, and liberty for all; its provisions that deal with increasing sanctions and with added efforts in the energy security arena for Ukraine are extraordinarily important; the focus on additional communications; defensive equipment for the military of Ukraine to defend the interests of that country; and, importantly, cooperation with NATO nations and nonallied NATO nations to develop the kind of international cooperative effort that truly can yield a better Central and Eastern Europe in the decades ahead.

I want to commend the leadership on both sides of the aisle. This is a bipartisan effort, what the American people are asking us for, aspiring to the highest values that we hold as a nation, and that is liberty for all, liberty for those who live in places where individuals have not had the opportunity to fully flourish because of the totalitarian and repressive regimes that make normal life impossible.

I would urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and I thank the leadership for bringing this up in the closing hours of this Congress.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida and also Mr. KINZINGER, the sponsor for this fine resolution.

In 1 minute I have one very simple thing to say. It is time that we recognize who we are dealing with here. I know that it is easy and it is fun to talk about diplomacy and diplomatic talk and pretend that Mr. Putin is this democratic leader who has democratic aspirations, but as this resolution clearly states, facts just do not bear that out.

So I thank the sponsor, and I thank the chairwoman for bringing to the floor the truth of what Europe is threatened with and the world is threatened with. Mr. Putin, that regime, is a regime of a thug for thugs, and he must be treated that way.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me again stress the importance of this resolution. It is strong and it is comprehensive. It says what needs to be said, namely, that the United States stands firmly with Ukraine as it faces Russia's aggregation, period, plain and simple, and it condemns that aggregation in unambiguous terms.

But this resolution also keeps the door open to improved U.S.-Russian relations should Mr. Putin cease his aggression against Ukraine and observe

the rules and norms that undergird the international order.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. It is very important. It is very timely. It is important that we act now.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank our esteemed chairman, Mr. ROYCE of California, as well as Mr. KINZINGER, the author of this resolution, for bringing forth this timely resolution before us.

By approving this resolution, Mr. Speaker, the House will send Vladimir Putin a clear and unmistakable message, one aimed not only at him, but at all of those in other countries who are tempted to use aggression and invasion to achieve their objectives.

There is more at stake here than simply defending Ukraine's independence and sovereignty, although that is our primary goal. The message is that the United States will not simply stand by and silently watch the world ascend into anarchy nor allow aggressors to accomplish their goals by force and coercion.

By demonstrating to Putin that his aggressive actions will only result in unacceptable costs to him and his regime, we can prevent others from concluding that we and our allies will do nothing to stop them and that they are free to impose the law of the jungle once again.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 758 as amended, which condemns Russia aggression against her neighbors. In the past year, we have seen Russia's determination to exert influence over neighboring sovereign states such as Ukraine. Ever since November 2013, when the Ukrainian people gathered peacefully in Maidan Square to protest against a corrupt, Russian-backed government, the Ukrainian people have come under siege by separatist forces supported and armed by Russia. It is clear to all of us that in spite of the ceasefire, Russia has never intended to honor the terms of the agreement and has continued to undermine any genuine effort to stabilize Ukraine.

Here in the United States, we must fully understand that such acts of aggression undermine peace and security—not just for Ukraine, but for all of Europe and the international community. At this critical juncture when normalcy seems unattainable, the United States must stand with the Ukrainian people and support their own desire to build a free and democratic country, free from Russia's interference—in complete freedom to determine Ukraine's own course of history.

We and our NATO allies have taken important steps in support of Ukraine. We are collectively providing \$100 million in military assistance and have increased military cooperation. We have imposed economic sanctions that force Russia pay a heavy price for its aggression. The international community has spoken with one voice—if Russia chooses aggression, there are clear consequences to its expansionist agenda.

But there is much more that needs to be done. I urge my colleagues to continue their

support of the Ukrainian people by passing additional legislation that provides for military and humanitarian assistance. The Ukrainian people have demonstrated time and again their will to defend their nation against a more powerful aggressor—with no expectation that anyone would come to their aid. Now, we need to do our part and give them the chance to stand up for the same values and principles that define us as a nation.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 758 as amended. President Vladimir Putin seems to have learned nothing from history other than that power grows out of the barrel of a gun. The Russian Federation under President Putin has demonstrated an ethos of naked aggression that threatens the principle of nation-state sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Russia's neighbors.

When Russian troops were identified as fomenting unrest in Crimea in February of this year, President Putin adamantly denied Russian involvement. By April, Russia had illegally annexed Crimea, and Putin had come clean about the blatant Russian intrusion.

He admitted that Russian troops had been deployed to Crimea before the illegal annexation on March 21, and exposed the illegitimate referendum on independence in Crimea for what it was, a referendum held at the end of the barrel of a gun. As Ukrainians in Crimea flee their Russian occupiers, I cannot help but feel the reverberations of Crimea's bloody history.

What we are witnessing in eastern Ukraine constitutes one of the most audacious power grabs of the 21st century, and it is happening in Europe no less.

I recently participated in a bipartisan delegation to the Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. I can attest that our NATO allies are under no illusions about Mr. Putin and they see him for what he is, a bully who will only be encouraged by concession.

The 28 nations represented at the NATO PA adopted strong language calling on NATO member countries to "make it unambiguously clear that the illegal 'annexation' of Crimea will never be recognized."

The leadership of the NATO PA has rotated to the United States, and my colleague, Mr. Turner of Ohio, has been elected President of the parliamentary body. The world is looking to the United States to reverse the dangerous precedent that has been set in Crimea.

To that end, I am pleased to see that H. Res. 758 includes language that echoes bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier this year with my colleague Rep. STEVE CHABOT, the Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act, H.R. 5241.

Today's resolution calls on the President to cooperate with United States allies and partners in Europe and other countries around the world to refuse to recognize any *de jure* or *de facto* sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters.

Some of my colleagues may recall that in the Cold War era, the U.S. had a policy of non-recognition regarding the Soviet Union's illegal annexation of the Baltic Republics. The U.S. recognized neither the *de jure* nor *de facto* sovereignty of the Soviet Union over the Baltic Republics.

Our policy of non-recognition did not end in 1991 because it had become outdated or failed to recognize a *fait accompli*. It ended

because the Baltic people gained their independence in 1991 almost 50 years after the Soviet occupation began, and today, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia are NATO allies.

Without a clear stance on the issue of Crimea, the West becomes unwittingly complicit in Putin's further aggression in eastern Ukraine and offers little hope to Ukrainians leaving Crimea that they will ever have the opportunity to return home.

For the United States to allow this naked aggression to go unaddressed would be truly an abrogation of our moral responsibility and would turn our back on what we should have learned from 20th century history.

Congress must make a stand, and I, for one, am stuck at Crimea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 758, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REAFFIRMING THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES IN THE SOUTH CHINA AND THE EAST CHINA SEAS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 714) reaffirming the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 714

Whereas the maritime domains of the Asia-Pacific region, which include both the sea and airspace above the domains, are critical to the region's prosperity, stability, and security, including global commerce;

Whereas the maritime domain in the Asia-Pacific region between the Pacific and Indian Oceans includes critical sea lines of commerce and communication;

Whereas China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei have disputed territorial claims over the Spratly Islands, and China, Taiwan, and Vietnam have disputed territorial claims over the Paracel Islands;

Whereas, although the United States Government is not a claimant in maritime disputes in either the East China or South China Seas, the United States has an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of

disputed claims in accordance with international law, in freedom of navigation and overflight, and in the free-flow of commerce free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force;

Whereas in 2002, the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China agreed to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and committed to developing an effective Code of Conduct;

Whereas that declaration committed all parties to those territorial disputes to "reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law", and to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force";

Whereas since that time, tensions over the disputed maritime and territorial areas have increased;

Whereas on September 2010, tensions escalated in the East China Sea near the Senkaku (Diaoyutai) Islands, a territory under the legal administration of Japan, when a Chinese fishing vessel deliberately rammed Japanese Coast Guard patrol boats;

Whereas on February 25, 2011, a frigate from the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) fired shots at three fishing boats from the Philippines;

Whereas on March 2, 2011, the Government of the Philippines reported that two patrol boats from China attempted to ram one of its surveillance ships;

Whereas on May 26, 2011, a maritime security vessel from China cut the cables of an exploration ship from Vietnam, the Binh Minh, in the South China Sea in waters near Cam Ranh Bay in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas on May 31, 2011, three Chinese military vessels used guns to threaten the crews of four Vietnamese fishing boats while they were fishing in the waters of the Spratly Islands;

Whereas on June 9, 2011, three vessels from China, including one fishing vessel and two maritime security vessels, ran into and disabled the cables of another exploration ship from Vietnam, the Viking 2, in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas on July 22, 2011, an Indian naval vessel, sailing about 45 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam, was warned by a Chinese naval vessel that it was allegedly violating Chinese territorial waters;

Whereas in April 2012, tensions escalated between the Philippines and China following a standoff over the Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas in June 2012, Vietnam passed a Maritime law that claimed sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Paracel and Spratly Islands;

Whereas in June 2012, China's cabinet, the State Council, approved the establishment of the city of Sansha to oversee the areas claimed by China in the South China Sea;

Whereas in July 2012, Chinese military authorities announced that they had established a corresponding People's Liberation Army garrison in Sansha, in the new prefecture;

Whereas on June 23, 2012, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation invited bids for oil exploration in areas within 200 nautical miles of the continental shelf and within the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas in January 2013, a Chinese naval ship allegedly fixed its weapons-targeting radar on Japanese vessels in the vicinity of the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea, and, on April 23, 2013, eight Chinese marine surveillance ships entered the 12-nautical-