

2023 -- S 0450

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Introduced By: Senators Murray, Picard, Raptakis, Felag, Tikoian, Burke, DiPalma, de la Cruz, Euer, and Miller

Date Introduced: February 28, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine, its neighbor
2 to the southwest. This illegal and immoral act of war is the largest conventional warfare operation
3 in Europe since World War II ended in 1945; and

4 WHEREAS, Ukraine is a democracy of more than 40 million people led by its
5 Democratically-elected President Volodymyr Zelensky. Russia is a nation of approximately 145
6 million led by Vladimir Putin, a former KGB agent, who has been in power in Russia since 2000
7 and is widely believed across the globe to be a tyrant; and

8 WHEREAS, For centuries, Ukraine and its people have suffered greatly due to actions
9 taken by Russia, their more powerful neighbor to the east. The Ukrainians declared their
10 independence in 1917, but were invaded and defeated by Lenin and his Russian forces in 1921.
11 From 1932 to 1933, the Ukrainian people suffered from a Stalin-induced famine, called
12 Holodomor in Ukraine, that according to a United Nations statement in 2003, killed
13 approximately 7-10 million people; and

14 WHEREAS, More recently, in 2014, Russia broke international law by invading and
15 conquering the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. As a result, Russia's actions were condemned
16 by the United Nations and they were suspended by the G8, (Group of 8), which was an inter-
17 governmental political forum from 1997 to 2014, consisting of the United States, Canada, United
18 Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia, which met regularly and sought to foster
19 stability and economic prosperity across the globe. Tragically, as recent events show, Russian
20 President Vladimir Putin has no interest in these noble ideas. Since 2014, Putin and Russia also

1 sowed rebellion and violence in the Donbas region of Southeastern Ukraine, in Russia's never-
2 ending quest to de-stabilize the Ukrainian government and democracy in Ukraine; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the United Nations, more than 5.9 million people in Ukraine
4 have been displaced since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, with nearly 8 million refugees
5 from Ukraine having been recorded in neighboring countries across Europe, and a projected 17.6
6 million needing humanitarian assistance in 2023, due to the crisis in Ukraine. The most recent
7 Ukraine War casualty estimates come from the Norway Defense Chief, General Eirik
8 Kristoffersen, who on January 22, 2023, estimated that thus far in the war, Russia has suffered
9 approximately 180,000 dead and wounded, with Ukraine suffering 100,000 dead or wounded, and
10 30,000 civilian deaths; and

11 WHEREAS, Thankfully, the world's reaction has been swift and almost unanimous in its
12 condemnation of Putin's actions. NATO is unified in its opposition to this invasion and is
13 supplying the Ukrainian government and military with much-needed weapons and humanitarian
14 goods. Other non-NATO nations are also assisting the Ukraine Government such as Sweden and
15 Finland. The United Nations has overwhelmingly condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine, and
16 the United States, the European Union and other allies across the globe are also enacting very
17 strict and biting economic sanctions against Russia, particularly in the banking and currency
18 sectors. Also, almost all of Europe and its Western allies have declared their territories to be no-
19 fly zones for Russian civilian and military aircraft; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby declares that it
21 vehemently opposes the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and completely supports the Rhode
22 Island Ukrainian-American community in this time of great crisis; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, and
25 to St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Church,
26 both of Woonsocket.

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