

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DENOUNCING RUSSIA'S ACTIONS CAUSING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN
UKRAINE AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE
CONCRETE ACTION TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AND TO
INCREASE THE REFUGEE LIMITS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND
INCREASE FUNDING RELATED TO THOSE EFFORTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has prompted two
2 million Ukrainians to flee the country as of March 8, 2022, and
3 the number is expected to grow even higher as Russia continues
4 its siege tactics of indiscriminately bombing cities; and
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6 WHEREAS, in only the first week of the conflict, more than
7 one million people had fled Ukraine, in comparison it took over
8 two years for that many people to leave Syria; and
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10 WHEREAS, as of March 8, 2022, the 2022 invasion of Ukraine
11 by Russia has caused at least 1,335 civilian casualties in
12 Ukraine, according to the United Nations Office of the High
13 Commissioner for Human Rights; and
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15 WHEREAS, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner
16 for Human Rights' statistics are based off confirmable
17 casualties, the number is likely several times higher as many of
18 Ukraine's largest cities under control of the Ukrainian
19 government are subject to relentless bombing campaigns from
20 long-distance artillery as well as air strikes from the Russian
21 military and it is difficult if not impossible to confirm some
22 of the deaths; and
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24 WHEREAS, Russia has begun to use siege style tactics where
25 cities are surrounded from all sides and shelled repeatedly,
26 such as in the port town of Mariupol, and while Russia has
27 promised to open civilian corridors to allow for civilians to
28 leave these cities, several times when they have done so they
29 have broken the ceasefire and shelled the civilian corridors
30 resulting in civilian casualties; and



1
2 WHEREAS, for many of the civilians living in these areas,
3 staying in their homes is not an option as intense bombing
4 campaigns by Russia have caused water, power, and energy
5 disruptions, leaving these civilians stuck in homes with no
6 electricity, running water, or heat in freezing temperatures;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, many of these civilians have fled from areas of
10 the country with most of the fighting such as the north, east,
11 and south, and have headed to the western part of the country
12 which has been relatively untouched by the fighting; and

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14 WHEREAS, cities such as Lviv in the western part of Ukraine
15 near its borders with the European Union are bursting at the
16 seams with refugees, and its mayor Andriy Sadovyi has requested
17 international help as the city is currently housing two hundred
18 fifty thousand refugees from other parts of Ukraine, and at
19 least fifty thousand people transit through its railway stations
20 a day; and

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22 WHEREAS, the vast majority of refugees are women, children,
23 and the elderly as Ukraine has banned men ages eighteen to sixty
24 from leaving the country due to a mass mobilization of soldiers;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations High Commissioner
28 for Refugees, as of March 8, 2022, Poland has received 1,204,403
29 refugees, Hungary has received 191,348 refugees, Romania has
30 received 143,000 refugees, Slovakia has received 140,745
31 refugees, the Czech Republic has received more than one hundred
32 thousand refugees, and Moldova has received 82,762 refugees,
33 with other countries receiving fewer refugees; and

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35 WHEREAS, countries such as Moldova, which is one of the
36 poorest countries in Europe, need more international support to
37 deal with the large number of refugees crossing the border from
38 Ukraine; and

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40 WHEREAS, the United States needs to take more concrete
41 steps to help Ukrainian refugees such as increasing humanitarian
42 aid to western parts of Ukraine that are dealing with an influx



1 of refugees from the other parts of the country and countries
2 dealing with large numbers of Ukrainian refugees; and
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4 WHEREAS, recognizing that the United States has taken some
5 steps towards helping the refugee crisis, such as allowing
6 Ukrainians who arrived in the United States on or prior to
7 March 1, 2022, to apply for temporary protected status; and
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9 WHEREAS, the United States should further help by taking in
10 refugees from Ukraine, similar to how refugees from Afghanistan
11 were taken in, and the United States should also increase the
12 limit of how many refugees it can take in to allow for the
13 resettlement of Ukrainians; and
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15 WHEREAS, more help should be given to the Ukrainian
16 government and countries housing refugees as soon as possible,
17 and plans should be made on how to deal with this crisis in the
18 longer term as there does not seem to be an end in sight; now,
19 therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that this body strongly and
24 forcefully denounces the Russian Federation and its President
25 Vladimir Putin for the blatant targeting of civilians by the
26 Russian military and the destruction of civilian infrastructure,
27 which makes evacuating civilians from the warzone even more
28 difficult; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the United
31 States Congress to take concrete actions to help with the
32 refugee crisis facing Ukraine and its European neighbors by
33 increasing material support to refugees, both those internally
34 displaced, such as those who have fled to the relatively safe
35 western part of Ukraine, and those who have fled the country, by
36 sending monetary support and supplies to Ukraine and its
37 neighbors who have accepted large numbers of refugees; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the United States President and
40 Congress are urged to take an active role in assisting the
41 crisis by raising the U.S. Refugee Admissions and Refugee
42 Resettlement Ceilings, making a stronger effort at resettling



1 more Ukrainian refugees into the United States, and allocating
2 more funding in order to support those efforts; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
6 United States, Speaker of the United States House of
7 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States
8 Senate, all members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,
9 Governor, and mayors of each county.

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OFFERED BY: _____

Karl Rhoads

