

HOUSE MEMORIAL 55

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

SUPPORTING UKRAINE AGAINST RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.

WHEREAS, the post-war international security order, led by the North Atlantic treaty organization, relied upon diplomacy, peace and communication rather than armed conflict to ensure prosperity and stability for more than seventy years; and

WHEREAS, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian people voted overwhelmingly to form a nation independent from Russia and built a thriving democratic country grounded in the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, more than thirty years ago, Ukraine declared its independence, and in 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom signed an agreement whereby each country pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine's borders in return for its nuclear

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1 disarmament; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2014, the pro-western Euromaidan protest
3 movement in Ukraine led to the resignation of authoritarian
4 president Victor Yanukovich, a brutal ally of Russian president
5 Vladimir Putin, and ushered in democratically elected leaders
6 who have sought closer ties to the United States, the European
7 Union and Great Britain; and

8 WHEREAS, Ukraine is recognized as a peaceful and honorable
9 democratic republic that is governed by democratically elected
10 President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, in order to manufacture a pretext to invade and
13 occupy Ukraine, Vladimir Putin and his surrogates lied to the
14 people of Russia and the global community, falsely claiming
15 that Ukraine posed a threat to Russians and that he was
16 launching a crusade against "Ukrainian Nazis"; and

17 WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched an
18 unjust, unwarranted and unprovoked full-scale war of choice and
19 aggression upon the peaceful nation of Ukraine; and

20 WHEREAS, the Russian Federation violated international
21 peace and security agreements that provided peaceful
22 alternatives; and

23 WHEREAS, since February 24, 2022, Russian soldiers and
24 surrogates have brutally inflicted violence and terror upon
25 Ukrainian civilians of every age, including children and the

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1 elderly, and committed atrocities throughout Ukraine; and

2 WHEREAS, since February 24, 2022, Russian soldiers and
3 surrogates have cruelly killed Ukrainian citizens' pets,
4 domestic animals and wildlife; and

5 WHEREAS, since February 24, 2022, Russian soldiers and
6 surrogates have attacked Ukrainian farms, environment, cultural
7 institutions, religious sites and heritage; and

8 WHEREAS, since February 24, 2022, Russia has used targeted
9 and indiscriminate aerial strikes to destroy residential
10 structures, hospitals, schools, businesses and critical
11 infrastructure that supports life, including water systems and
12 energy grids, plants and pipelines; and

13 WHEREAS, Russia has attacked and damaged nuclear power
14 facilities in Ukraine, captured and tortured workers from the
15 facilities and subjected Ukraine and its neighbors to risks of
16 radioactive releases; and

17 WHEREAS, as Russia's military struggled on the
18 battlefield, Putin resorted to relying on the brutal PMC Wagner
19 group to inflict his war of aggression and choice; and

20 WHEREAS, the PMC Wagner group is a Russian mercenary
21 organization that was founded and is led by a Russian oligarch
22 with close ties to Putin; and

23 WHEREAS, the PMC Wagner group has been designated as a
24 significant transnational criminal organization pursuant to
25 United States executive orders and by the United States

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1 department of the treasury; and

2 WHEREAS, Russian soldiers and the PMC Wagner group are
3 credibly alleged to have committed violations of human rights
4 and international humanitarian law by targeting children, the
5 elderly, women and civilians through acts of cruel violence,
6 torture, rape, abduction and forced mass displacement of
7 Ukrainian children in Russian filtration camps to erase their
8 Ukrainian identity and place them with Russian citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, Russia's war on Ukraine has severely disrupted
10 Ukrainian and international economies, resources, food supplies
11 and environments; and

12 WHEREAS, the brutality of Russia's war on Ukraine is an
13 affront to international law, decency and humanity; and

14 WHEREAS, a threat to the sovereign borders of Ukraine is a
15 threat to all western democracies; and

16 WHEREAS, Ukraine has been a bulwark against Russian
17 military aggression in Europe and the world; and

18 WHEREAS, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine,
19 the United States and the international community have imposed
20 sanctions on Russia and provided Ukraine with equipment and
21 resources it needs to defend its territory and people; and

22 WHEREAS, the leaders, military and citizens of Ukraine
23 continue to valiantly stand up and fight against Russia's
24 unjust and heinous invasion of their country; and

25 WHEREAS, Ukraine deserves the continued support of every

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1 American and the international community as Ukraine defends
2 itself from Russia's invasion, which is the largest attack in
3 Europe since World War II;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of
6 the house of representatives proudly stand in solidarity with
7 Ukraine, its people and its leaders, and commend them for their
8 resiliency, courage and relentless fight to protect their right
9 to self-determination and self-governance; and condemn, in the
10 strongest possible terms, Vladimir Putin's attack on the people
11 of Ukraine and endorse continued economic sanctions and export
12 controls on Russia and continued provision of military and
13 humanitarian resources to Ukraine; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the house of
15 representatives wholeheartedly support the United States and
16 international efforts to swiftly aid Ukraine in defending
17 Ukrainian borders, end Russia's war on Ukraine and hold Russia
18 accountable for its actions; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the president of the United States, the senate
21 of the United States, the house of representatives of the
22 United States, members of New Mexico's congressional delegation
23 and the Ukrainian embassy in the United States.