

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 284 Session of
2014INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, HUTCHINSON, SCARNATI AND BRUBAKER,
JANUARY 16, 2014

AS AMENDED, JUNE 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for the democratic and European aspirations
2 of the people of Ukraine and their right to choose their own
3 future free of intimidation and fear.

4 WHEREAS, A democratic, prosperous and independent Ukraine is
5 in the national interest of the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Closer relations with the European Union (EU)
7 through the signing of an Association Agreement will promote
8 democratic values, good governance and economic opportunity in
9 Ukraine; and

10 WHEREAS, Millions of Ukrainian citizens support closer
11 relations with Europe and the signing of an Association
12 Agreement; and

13 WHEREAS, The Government of Ukraine has declared integration
14 with Europe a national priority and has made significant
15 progress toward meeting the requirements for the Association
16 Agreement; and

17 WHEREAS, Ukraine has the sovereign right to enter into
18 voluntary partnerships of its choosing, in keeping with its

1 interests; and

2 WHEREAS, Ukraine's closer relations with the EU do not
3 threaten any other country and will benefit both Ukraine and its
4 neighbors; and

5 WHEREAS, On November 21, 2013, following several months of
6 intense outside pressure, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych
7 abruptly suspended negotiations on the Association Agreement one
8 week before it was due to be signed at the EU's Eastern
9 Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania; and

10 WHEREAS, This reversal of stated government policy
11 precipitated demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of
12 Ukrainian citizens in Kyiv as well as in cities throughout the
13 country; and

14 WHEREAS, The demonstrators ~~have been~~ WERE overwhelmingly <--
15 peaceful and have sought to exercise their constitutional rights
16 to freely assemble and express their opposition to President
17 Yanukovych's decision, as well as their support for greater
18 government accountability and closer relations with Europe; and

19 WHEREAS, On November 30, 2013, police violently dispersed
20 peaceful demonstrators in Kyiv's Independence Square, resulting
21 in many injuries and the arrest of several dozen individuals;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, On December 9, 2013, police raided three opposition
24 media outlets and the headquarters of an opposition party; and

25 WHEREAS, On December 11, 2013, despite President Yanukovych's
26 statement the previous day that he would engage in talks with
27 the opposition, police attempted to forcibly evict peaceful
28 protesters from central locations in Kyiv; and

29 WHEREAS, United States, European and other leaders, as well
30 as three former presidents of Ukraine, ~~have~~ urged restraint, <--

1 warned against the use of violence against peaceful protesters
2 and called for dialogue with the opposition to resolve the
3 current political and economic crisis; and

4 WHEREAS, ON JANUARY 16, 2014, THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT
5 PASSED, AND PRESIDENT YANUKOVYCH SIGNED, LEGISLATION WHICH
6 SEVERELY LIMITED THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL PROTEST, CONSTRAINED
7 FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA AND UNDULY
8 RESTRICTED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS; AND

9 WHEREAS, THE PASSAGE OF THESE UNDEMOCRATIC MEASURES AND
10 PRESIDENT YANUKOVYCH'S REFUSAL TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE
11 WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS PRECIPITATED SEVERAL DAYS OF VIOLENCE
12 AND RESULTED IN SEVERAL DEATHS AND HUNDREDS OF INJURIES, AS WELL
13 AS NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY; AND

14 WHEREAS, IN THE FACE OF SPREADING DEMONSTRATIONS, UKRAINIAN
15 GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OPPOSITION LEADERS ENTERED INTO
16 NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ON JANUARY 28, 2014, RESULTED IN THE
17 RESIGNATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS CABINET AND THE REPEAL
18 OF MOST OF THE ANTIDEMOCRATIC LAWS FROM JANUARY 16, 2014; AND

19 WHEREAS, ON FEBRUARY 20, 2014, UKRAINIAN SECURITY FORCES,
20 INCLUDING HEAVILY ARMED SNIPERS, FIRED ON DEMONSTRATORS IN KYIV,
21 LEAVING DOZENS DEAD AND THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE REELING FROM THE
22 MOST LETHAL DAY OF VIOLENCE SINCE THE SOVIET ERA, AND MANY OF
23 PRESIDENT YANUKOVYCH'S POLITICAL ALLIES, INCLUDING THE MAYOR OF
24 KYIV, RESIGNED FROM HIS GOVERNING PARTY OF REGIONS TO PROTEST
25 THE BLOODSHED; AND

26 WHEREAS, ON FEBRUARY 22, 2014, THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT FOUND
27 PRESIDENT YANUKOVYCH UNABLE TO FULFILL HIS DUTIES, EXERCISED ITS
28 CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS TO REMOVE HIM FROM OFFICE AND SET AN
29 ELECTION FOR MAY 25, 2014, TO SELECT HIS REPLACEMENT; AND

30 WHEREAS, ON MARCH 2, 2014, RUSSIAN TROOPS INVADED THE

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1 UKRAINIAN TERRITORY OF CRIMEA, SEIZING CONTROL OF THE PENINSULA,
2 BORDER CROSSINGS, GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS, KEY
3 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SURROUNDING UKRAINIAN MILITARY BASES; AND

4 WHEREAS, THE MILITARY INTERVENTION BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
5 IN CRIMEA IS A VIOLATION OF UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE
6 AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; AND

7 WHEREAS, ON MARCH 16, 2014, CRIMEA HELD A REFERENDUM ON
8 SECEDING FROM UKRAINE AND ACCEDING TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
9 WHICH VIOLATED THE UKRAINIAN CONSTITUTION, OCCURRED UNDER DURESS
10 OF RUSSIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION AND WAS NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE
11 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY; AND

12 WHEREAS, ON MARCH 20, 2014, THE RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT VOTED TO
13 ANNEX CRIMEA AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN SIGNED THE TREATY OF
14 ACCESSION ANNEXING CRIMEA TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION; AND

15 WHEREAS, ON APRIL 7, 2014, PROTESTERS OCCUPIED GOVERNMENT
16 BUILDINGS IN UKRAINE'S EASTERN CITIES OF DONETSK, LUHANSK AND
17 KHARKIV; AND

18 WHEREAS, ON APRIL 18, 2014, THE UNITED STATES, RUSSIA,
19 UKRAINE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION AGREED AT TALKS IN GENEVA ON
20 STEPS TO DE-ESCALATE THE CRISIS IN EASTERN UKRAINE; AND

21 WHEREAS, ON APRIL 22, 2014, UKRAINE'S ACTING PRESIDENT
22 ORDERED THE RELAUNCH OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST PRO-RUSSIAN
23 MILITANTS IN THE EAST AFTER TWO MEN WERE FOUND TORTURED TO DEATH
24 IN THE DONETSK REGION; AND

25 WHEREAS, ON MAY 25, 2014, UKRAINE HELD A PRESIDENTIAL
26 ELECTION, BUT MOST POLLING STATIONS IN THE EAST REMAINED CLOSED;
27 AND

28 WHEREAS, PETRO POROSHENKO WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT AND VOWED TO
29 BRING "PEACE TO A UNITED AND FREE UKRAINE"; AND

30 WHEREAS, The Senate greatly values the warm and close

1 relationship the United States has established with Ukraine
2 since that country regained its independence in 1991; therefore
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 express support for the democratic and European aspirations of
6 the people of Ukraine and their right to choose their own future
7 free of intimidation and fear; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate call on the United States and the
9 European Union to continue to work together to support a
10 peaceful resolution to the crisis and to continue to support the
11 desire of millions of Ukrainian citizens for closer relations
12 with Europe through FINALIZING the signing of an Association <--
13 Agreement, as well as for a democratic future; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, THAT THE SENATE CONDEMN THE UNPROVOKED AND ILLEGAL <--
15 RUSSIAN MILITARY SEIZURE AND ANNEXATION OF THE UKRAINIAN CRIMEA;
16 AND BE IT FURTHER

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Government of Ukraine,
18 Ukrainian opposition parties and all protesters to exercise the
19 utmost restraint and avoid confrontation and call on the
20 Government of Ukraine to live up to its international
21 obligations and respect and uphold the democratic rights of its
22 citizens, including the freedom of assembly and expression, as
23 well as the freedom of the press; and be it further

24 ~~RESOLVED, That in the event of further violence by government <--~~
25 ~~authorities against peaceful protesters, the President of the~~
26 ~~United States and Congress consider targeted sanctions against~~
27 ~~those who authorize or engage in the use of force; and be it~~
28 ~~further~~

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all parties to engage in
30 constructive, sustained dialogue in order to find a peaceful

1 solution to Ukraine's current political and economic crisis; and
2 be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of the resolution be transmitted to the
4 President of the United States, the presiding officers of each
5 house of Congress and each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.