

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 592

Calling for free and fair elections in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. QUIGLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling for free and fair elections in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Whereas democracy, human rights, and civil liberties are universal values and fundamental principles of the foreign policy of the United States;

Whereas an essential element of democratic self-government is for leaders to be chosen and regularly held accountable through elections that are organized and conducted in a manner that is free, fair, inclusive, and consistent with international standards;

Whereas governments in which power does not derive from free and fair elections lack democratic legitimacy;

Whereas elections in Ukraine have previously involved restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and associa-

tion, including censorship, surveillance, lack of transparency, and the absence of a free media;

Whereas, on February 22, 2014, the Ukrainian Parliament voted under its constitutional authority to remove Victor Yanukovich from the post of President of Ukraine; and

Whereas authorities in Ukraine have called for a Presidential election to be held on May 25, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) greatly values the warm and close relation-
3 ship the United States has established with Ukraine
4 since that country regained its independence in
5 1991;

6 (2) reaffirms the commitment of the United
7 States to democracy, human rights, civil liberties,
8 and the rule of law, including the universal rights of
9 freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of
10 the press, and freedom of association;

11 (3) expresses support for freedom, human
12 rights, civil liberties, and rule of law in Ukraine, and
13 for elections that are free and fair;

14 (4) expresses strong support for the people of
15 Ukraine in their peaceful calls for a representative
16 and responsive democratic government that respects
17 human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law;

1 (5) condemns the interference of foreign agi-
2 tators in pre-election activities that have disrupted
3 security throughout Ukraine;

4 (6) calls on the Government of Ukraine to re-
5 spect freedom of expression and association by—

6 (A) holding elections that are free, fair,
7 and responsive to the people of Ukraine, includ-
8 ing by refraining from disqualifying candidates
9 for political reasons; and

10 (B) ensuring freedom of the press, assem-
11 bly, association, and expression;

12 (7) calls on the Government of Ukraine to allow
13 international election monitors to be present for the
14 May 25, 2014, election; and

15 (8) urges the President of the United States,
16 the Secretary of State, and other world leaders—

17 (A) to express support for the rights and
18 freedoms of the people of Ukraine, including to
19 democratic self-government;

20 (B) to engage with the people of Ukraine
21 and support their efforts to promote human
22 rights and democratic reform, including sup-
23 porting civil society organizations that promote
24 democracy and governance;

1 (C) to support policies and programs that
2 preserve free and open access to the press and
3 Internet in Ukraine; and

4 (D) to condemn elections that are not free
5 and fair and that do not meet international
6 standards.

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