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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 53 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY BURGOS, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, DELLOSO, NEILSON AND  
FREEMAN, MARCH 30, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 30, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Health to investigate each entity in  
2 this Commonwealth with a permit to open and operate a medical  
3 cannabis business to determine whether the entity has  
4 financial ties to Russian businesses and, if so, take steps  
5 to revoke the permit.

6 WHEREAS, On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation invaded  
7 Ukraine; and

8 WHEREAS, Russian aggression against Ukraine stems back much  
9 further than this invasion, including when Russia invaded, and  
10 has since occupied, the Ukrainian territory of Crimea in 2014;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, As of December 6, 2022, the United Nations High  
13 Commissioner for Refugees estimates that 7,832,493 Ukrainians  
14 have been made refugees since the start of the war; and

15 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken  
16 has stated that Russia has destroyed Ukrainian civilian housing,  
17 schools, hospitals and shopping centers, many of which are  
18 clearly identifiable as civilian infrastructure; and

19 WHEREAS, Between February 24, 2022, and December 4, 2022, the

1 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
2 reports that 6,702 Ukrainian civilians are known to have been  
3 killed and 10,479 Ukrainian civilians are known to have been  
4 injured since the Russian invasion; and

5 WHEREAS, The United Nations believes the number of civilian  
6 casualties in Ukraine to be much higher than currently known due  
7 to delays in reporting in heavy hostility areas; and

8 WHEREAS, In response to the invasion of Ukraine, the United  
9 States and its allies have imposed a series of heavy sanctions  
10 on the Russian Federation and closely related businesses and  
11 people; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania and Ukraine have deep economic and  
13 cultural ties; and

14 WHEREAS, Numerous Ukrainian businesses have made Pennsylvania  
15 their home; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is home to the second-highest number of  
17 people with Ukrainian ancestry in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, As stated by Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania stands  
19 with Ukraine and will take continuous action to support Ukraine  
20 as it fights against the Russian invasion; and

21 WHEREAS, The medical cannabis industry in Pennsylvania  
22 totaled more than \$500 million in sales in its first two years  
23 in operation; and

24 WHEREAS, It is important that the revenue from medical  
25 cannabis in Pennsylvania not benefit in any way those tied to  
26 the Russian Federation and its war against Ukraine; and

27 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Department of Health  
28 to administer the Medical Marijuana Program, issue permits and  
29 monitor and regulate the entities licensed to grow, process or  
30 dispense medical cannabis under the act of April 17, 2016

1 (P.L.84, No.16), known as the Medical Marijuana Act; therefore  
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
4 Department of Health to investigate each entity in this  
5 Commonwealth with a permit to open and operate a medical  
6 cannabis business to determine whether the entity has financial  
7 ties to Russian businesses and, if so, take steps to revoke the  
8 permit.