

October 20, 2022

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2339 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Rogers:

We urge you to include vital provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act that help ensure Ukraine's ability to prevail against the Russian invasion.

Today, Ukrainians are fighting to resist Russia's wanton aggression and unprovoked invasion of their country. Through their sacrifice, the Ukrainian people are defending not only themselves, but also the security of Europe and the transatlantic space. Each of our organizations is very grateful for all the support the United States continues to provide Ukraine. As you undertake your work on the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act, we urge you to keep in mind that the defense of Ukraine is the defense of United States interests, and that Ukraine's victory is a victory for the United States.

The proposed military assistance and other economic provisions in the legislation before you are essential for Ukraine's defense. We request that all relevant measures be included in their most robust versions. Specifically, we believe that provisions related to helping sustain Ukraine's military, punishing international corruption, and imposing costs on Putin's regime are vital.

First, military assistance and training for Ukraine are essential. Only the United States possesses the capacity and the capability to help Ukraine materially sustain its defense effort. We believe Sections 1232 and 1236 (of HR 7900) provide a much-needed benchmark of American leadership, setting the pace by which many other NATO allies will support Ukraine. While oversight is essential, such initiatives should not unduly delay or hinder assistance that soldiers on the battlefield are waiting to receive.

Second, Section 5829 addresses Russian assets located in the U.S. This provision provides the Attorney General the power to transfer forfeited Russian assets so that their value and proceeds can be used to assist Ukraine in its defense. These provisions provide for due process while also ensuring that seized assets can actually be used to help compensate for the trillions of dollars in damage Putin's war has inflicted. We ask you to adopt the stronger version of this section, with broader predicates for seizing Russian assets.

Third, Vladimir Putin's brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine was made possible in part by his oligarchs having open access to the U.S. financial system. The ENABLERS Act (Section 5401) provides the statutory authorities required to effectively and appropriately crack down on the ability of U.S. "enablers" to facilitate transnational corruption. Through this section, the U.S. Treasury will be authorized to require people who provide certain, discrete financial services — such as forming a trust, registering a company, or managing another person's assets — to conduct basic due diligence on their clients and/or file suspicious activity reports on questionable transactions made by their clients, just as America's banking professionals have done for decades.

Finally, just as corrupt money must not find safe haven in the U.S., neither should those who commit that corruption. Section 5910 further clarifies and strengthens the State Department's ability to revoke visas or block entry into the United States for those involved in using public office to extort or accept a bribe from a U.S. person.

Together, these provisions work to defeat Putin's aggression on the battlefield, to root out the thievery of his government, and to mark U.S. leadership against corruption. These are all common-sense measures that keep faith with the Ukrainian people and serve the interests of the United States.

We must do everything we can to ensure Ukraine has the resources it needs to prevail against the invasion. We must stop Putin from continuing to profit off investments in America. We urge you on behalf of our brothers and sisters on the frontlines in Ukraine to include the strongest versions of these provisions in the final NDAA.

Respectfully,

Razom



Ukrainian National Women's League of America



Ukrainian Congress Committee of America



MedGlobal



Ukrainian American Coordinating Council



Georgian Association in the USA



Congress of Bosniaks of North America



Syria Faith Initiative



Joint Baltic American National Committee



American Coalition for Syria



Association of Belarusians in America



Free Belarus Coalition



Belarusian-American Association



Belarus Freedom Forum



Ukrainian Medical Association of North America



Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Alliance for Ukraine



Ukraine TrustChain



United Help Ukraine



Minnesota Ukrainian American Advocacy Committee



Florida for Ukraine



Stand With Ukraine Foundation



House of Ukraine



Together for Ukraine



Philly Stands with Ukraine



Hope for Ukraine



Ukrainian American House

