

September 27, 2023

To: Sisters of the Presentation
Fm: Anne Chermak Dillen

Dear Sisters,

Thank you so much for your continued interest in advocating for support of Ukraine as the country continues to defend itself against Russia's all-out invasion and completely unjustified war, now in its 19th month.

Here are some updates following up on my presentation of May 22:

On the Legislative Priorities listed on the sheet from the Ukraine Action Summit that I cited in my May 22 remarks:

The **HARM Act** (H.R.506) now has 38 Co-Sponsors), including Ted Lieu (CA-36) and Eric Swalwell (CA-14);

The Genocide Resolution (H.Res. 154) now has 37 co-sponsors, including 4 in California: Mike Thompson (CA-4), Jim Costa (CA-21), Maxine Waters (CA-43), and Ro Khanna (CA-17).

Forced transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia (H.Res. 149) has 19 co-sponsors, including 3 in California: Maxine Waters (CA-43), Tony Cardenas (CA-29), and Jay Obernolte (CA-23).

Transferring Russian state assets to Ukraine was introduced in the U.S. Congress in June as H.R. 4175/S. 2003 under the title ***Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity (REPO) for Ukrainians Act***, legislation to provide additional assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from Russia. See details in the announcement [here](#):

June 14, 2023: WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Jim Risch (R-Idaho), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), in conjunction with U.S. Representatives Michael McCaul (R-Texas), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, today introduced the ***Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity (REPO) for Ukrainians Act*** [H.R.4175], legislation to provide additional

assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation.

This legislation:

Gives the president the authority to confiscate Russian sovereign assets that have been frozen in the United States and transfer them to assist in Ukraine's reconstruction efforts.

Prohibits the release of funds to sanctioned Russian entities until Russia withdraws from Ukraine and agrees to provide compensation for harm caused by its unprovoked war.

Instructs the president to work with allies and partners to establish an international compensation mechanism to transfer confiscated or frozen Russian sovereign assets to assist Ukraine.

Gives the State Department Office of Sanctions Coordination additional resources to work with partners and allies abroad toward the goal of confiscation of additional Russian sovereign assets in other countries.

Ensures Putin – not U.S. taxpayers – foots the bill for the damage caused by Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

The Senate version of the REPO Act [S.2003] was introduced by U.S. Senators Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.). The House version of the REPO Act was introduced by U.S. Representatives Michael McCaul (R-Texas), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.), Thomas Kean Jr. (R-N.J.), Mike Quigley (D-Ill.), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.).

All of these bills need support from California's congressional representatives.

Also of note, here is a Sept. 6 AP news report from NPR:

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Members of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee said Wednesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin is committing genocide in Ukraine. Their comments came a day before they

were scheduled to meet with the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

The ICC in March issued an international arrest warrant for Putin for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine. However, it has not yet charged him with any other offenses committed by Russian forces since their invasion of Ukraine more than 18 months ago.

The committee's chairman, Rep. Michael McCaul, a Texas Republican, told reporters during a visit to The Hague that Putin "tried to erase a culture, a people and a religion, and that is the definition of genocide." Another member of the committee, Ann Wagner, a Missouri Republican, agreed, speaking of the "crimes against humanity, the downright genocide that this man has perpetrated."

Finally, I direct your attention to the findings of this public opinion survey by leading American NGO Razom: The poll found that support for Ukraine among Americans endures, with a majority (63%) wanting the U.S. to continue to support Ukraine militarily, and 59% wanting assistance to continue until the situation has stabilized and Russia leaves Ukrainian territory entirely.

More broadly, the poll found that Americans strongly believe America should stand up for vulnerable, bullied people around the world whose freedom is at risk.

A majority of Americans want to see Ukraine victorious.

63% support American continuing military support for Ukraine in next year's federal budget.

Majorities of voters support American aid to Ukraine so far and are more likely to vote for a candidate who articulates this vision over someone opposed to American aid.

Less than 20% of Americans want Ukraine to settle the war now and cede territory to Russia.

Most Americans' support for Ukraine increases (across parties) when they hear that “winning” is the goal.

Americans have strong negative feelings about Putin and Russia. 68% recognize that Russia's is attempting genocide in Ukraine. 63% agree that “we need to defeat (Putin) now.”

The Razom press release on the poll results is attached here.

I hope you find this update helpful. Thank you again for your interest, support for Ukraine, and your prayers.