



Legislative Bulletin.....September 17, 2014

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H. Res. 726– Strongly supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country’s relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries

**H. Res. 726 – Strongly supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country’s relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries
(Rep. Gerlach, R-PA)**

Order of Business: H. Res.726 is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: [H. Res 726](#) strongly supports the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country’s relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries. The resolution:

- Calls on the President to continue to work the United States’ allies and partners in Europe and other nations around the world to reaffirm the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine and to refuse to recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;
- Strongly condemns the continuing political, economic, and military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the violation of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity;
- States that the military intervention by the Russian Federation is a breach of its obligations under the United Nations Charter and its commitments as a participating State of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#), and is a violation of the [1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances](#), in which it pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine; and poses a threat to international peace and security;

- Demands that the Russian Federation remove its military forces and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine, including equipment provided to separatist and paramilitary forces;
- Demands that the Russian Federation end its political, military, and economic support of separatist and paramilitary forces in Ukraine;
- Demands that the Russian Federation and the separatist and paramilitary forces it supports end their violations of the cease-fire announced on September 5, 2014;
- Calls on the President to cooperate with allies and partners in Europe and other nations around the world to impose visa bans, targeted asset freezes, sectoral sanctions, and other measures on the Russian Federation and its leadership sufficient to compel it to end its violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to remove its military forces and equipment from Ukrainian territory, and to end its support of separatist and paramilitary forces;
- Calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with equipment, services and training required to effectively defend its territory and sovereignty;
- Calls on the President to ensure the delivery of urgently needed assistance to Ukraine and to ensure that all future assistance will be rapidly delivered;
- Calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with appropriate intelligence and other relevant information to assist the Government of Ukraine to defend its territory and sovereignty;
- Calls on the President to work with the Government of Ukraine, our allies and other nations, and international organizations to ensure that the multinational team investigating the destruction of [Malaysia Airlines Flight 17](#) is able to conduct an unrestricted investigation, guarantee the repatriation of remains and personal effects from the crash site, report its findings free of outside political influence or intimidation and to ensure that those directly and indirectly responsible for this tragedy are brought to justice;
- Calls on our European allies, and other countries and international organizations, to join the United States in providing assistance to the Government of Ukraine to ensure that the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 26, 2014, are free, fair, and held in all regions of Ukraine in full accordance with international standards;
- Calls on the President to expand United States international broadcasting efforts to Russian speaking audiences in Ukraine and both inside and outside of Russia and include a broad spectrum of communications mediums to provide high-quality programming content, independent journalism, and credible information to counter Russia's propaganda;

- Calls on Ukraine and other countries to support energy diversification initiatives to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use its energy exports as a means of applying political or economic pressure, including by promoting increased natural gas exports from the United States and other countries;
- Strongly supports the efforts by President Poroshenko and the people of Ukraine to establish a lasting peace in Ukraine that includes the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine's territory, the establishment of Ukraine's control over all of its international borders, the disarming of the separatist and paramilitary forces in the east, policies to reduce Russia's ability to use energy exports and trade barriers as weapons to apply economic and political pressure on Ukraine, and an end to Russia's interference in Ukraine's internal affairs; and
- Reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its obligations under the [North Atlantic Treaty](#), especially Article 5, and calls on all Alliance member states to provide their full share of the resources needed to ensure their collective defense.

Additional Information: According to the findings of the resolution, the Russian Federation has undertaken a campaign of political, economic, and military aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation's forcible occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea, its continuing support for separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine, and its invasion of and military operations on Ukrainian territory represent gross violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and a violation of international law. The Russian Federation has provided military equipment, training, and other assistance to separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine that has resulted in ongoing conflict that is responsible for over 3,000 deaths, hundreds of thousands of civilian refugees, and widespread destruction. On July 17, 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, a civilian airliner, was destroyed by a Russian-made missile provided to the separatist forces by the Russian Federation, taking all 298 innocent lives on board, including 193 Dutch citizens.

A Congressional Research Service report on the Ukrainian crisis can be found [here](#). A Foreign Policy Initiative bulletin on the recent NATO summit regarding the recent Russian aggression in Eastern Ukraine can be found [here](#). Information from the House Foreign Affairs Committee's July 29, 2014 hearing on Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 and the Ukrainian crisis can be found [here](#). A State Department list of Executive Orders regarding sanctions against the Russian Federation's aggression and violation of Ukrainian sovereignty can be found [here](#). A list of the resolution's cosponsors can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on September 16, 2014 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: House Rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority for resolutions.

RSC Staff Contact: Nicholas Rodman, nicholas.rodman@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

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