**A Resolution to Support the People of Ukraine in their Defense Against Russian Genocide and Colonialism**

[32nd LD Ukraine Resolution (August 2023)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wNrvbDt5WZKgBKykswHGrYHV_ZxGe-OrpNHSMRzS8SY/edit?usp=sharing)

WHEREAS, On February 24th, 2022, the Russian Federation unlawfully and illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine, with the stated goals of bringing Ukraine back into the former Soviet sphere of influence, to overthrow the democratically elected government in Kyiv, to “cleanse” Ukraine of “degenerate Western influences” such as increasing LGBTQ+ rights, and to impose the Russian language and culture on the diverse, multi-ethnic peoples of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, The Ukrainian people in 1991 expressed their self-determination through a democratic referendum on Ukrainian independence from the Soviet Union and its successor the Russian Federation, with the majority of people in all regions of Ukraine having voted for their regions to join an independent Ukraine, including majorities of voters in traditionally Russian-speaking regions such as Donetsk (83.90% in favor) and Luhansk (83.86% in favor); and

WHEREAS, Ukraine has a centuries-long history of indigenous democratic movements, including the Zaporizhian Cossacks in the 15th century, in which the Rada (council) elected the Cossack hetman (leader), through the Ukrainian War of Independence (1917-1921) and the Orange Revolution and Revolution of Dignity in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The Russian Federation has interfered in domestic Ukrainian sovereignty, both through the control of wealthy oligarchs and particularly after the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity in 2014, with the Russian Federation invading, occupying, and illegally annexing the Crimea region while also providing military support and direct intervention to separatist insurgents and terrorist factions in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, which has led to numerous atrocities such as the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 on July 17, 2014 using Russian equipment under Russian military leadership, with the loss of all 298 passengers and crew onboard; and

WHEREAS, The Russian Federation, since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991,  has demonstrated a continuation of the colonialist policies and ambitions of both the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, leading to both invasions of the independent nations of Moldova (1992), Georgia (1992 and 2008), Syria (2015), and Ukraine (2014 through 2022 and today), as well as suppression of self-determination by ethnic and religious minorities within the borders of modern Russia, such as Chechnya (1994 and 1999); and

WHEREAS, Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe, with more than 5 million people displaced internally within Ukraine and more than 6 million people seeking refugee status abroad, in addition to incalculable damage to the Ukrainian economy, infrastructure, ecology and the environment, including the destruction under Russian occupation of the Kakhovka Dam on June 6, 2023, as well as ongoing nuclear safety concerns at the occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant upstream on the Dnieper; and

WHEREAS, Russia has instituted a policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide within its occupied territories, including the separation of Ukrainian children from their parents, re-educating them in Russian culture and loyalty to the Russian state, and subsequently adopting them to Russian families in far-flung regions of Russia, an act of cultural genocide for which the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin and Commisioner for Children’s Rights Maria Lvova-Belova; and

WHEREAS, The Russian military has indiscriminately targeted civilian homes, businesses, and places of worship, leading to at least 25,000 civilian casualties, including the deaths of more than 500 children, with the near-total destruction of major cities in Ukraine such as Mariupol (which had a pre-war population of 480,000), where unknown thousands of civilians were killed and mass graves have been observed via satellite imagery; and

WHEREAS, Prior to Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukraine was a leading agricultural producer in the world, providing much-needed food security to the global south; Ukraine was the world’s top producer of sunflower products, 4th largest producer of barley, 6th in corn, and 7th for wheat, among many other agricultural products consumed domestically and abroad; and

WHEREAS, The Russian occupation of arable land, mining of fields, targeted destruction of agricultural infrastructure and storage in Black Sea ports such as Odesa, and withdrawal from the Black Sea grain corridor deal have led to a global food crisis, with rising food costs in developed economies such as the United States and the risk of famine in the global south; and

WHEREAS, Outnumbered and underequipped, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have bravely and tirelessly defended their fellow citizens against overwhelming odds, adapting their strategies and tactics to incorporate both Western military equipment such as HIMARS and emerging technologies such as drones; nevertheless, the price of defending their nation’s freedom and sovereignty has been high, with estimates of Ukrainian military deaths above 70,000 soldiers with 100-120,000 more wounded and 8,000-10,000 prisoners of war in Russian captivity, often suffering starvation and daily torture; and

WHEREAS, In order to accelerate Ukrainian victory and thereby save Ukrainian civilian and military lives, several of the United States’ NATO allies have established precedent for providing more-advanced, longer-range weapons to Ukraine, including Storm Shadow missiles provided by the United Kingdom and US-built F-16 fighter jets to be provided by Denmark and the Netherlands with the approval of President Joe Biden – none of this additional military aid having resulted in a direct conflict between the Russian Federation and its allies; and

WHEREAS, A failure to defeat genocidal aggression in Ukraine will cost incalculable lives under broadening Russian occupation and will embolden not only the Russian Federation’s own colonialist ambitions but also signal weakness toward other global powers seeking to dominate their regional neighbors; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (whose member states such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia border the Russian Federation), the United States of America cannot directly intervene militarily on behalf of Ukraine without risking a wider, potentially global war between the United States and its NATO allies and the Russian Federation and its allies; and

WHEREAS, Democratic Ukraine stands against rising authoritarianism as a bulwark for freedom not only for its citizens but for free nations everywhere. Ukrainian victory, supported by its friends and allies such as the United States of America, will geopolitically and strategically weaken colonialist, authoritarian Russia, hasten the end of the brutal war, and thereby save countless civilian and military lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 32nd Legislative District Democrats of Washington State here assembled call upon our elected officials serving in the United States Senate and House of Representatives to continue funding all necessary humanitarian and economic aid to the people of Ukraine; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call upon our elected officials to broaden the scope of defensive military aid provided to Ukraine for the purposes of saving the lives and homes of Ukrainian citizens and defending the sovereign nation of Ukraine’s internationally recognized territorial borders; with a renewal of the Lend-Lease Act and approving additional systems such as those currently being retired by the United States Army and Air Force, including longer-range ATACMS missiles for HIMARS, surplus F-16 fighter jets, and recently retired A-10 ground attack aircraft, through programs such as the Excess Defense Articles program.

Adopted September 6, 2023

Submitted by Carl Larson, Member