

Last year, we passed a similar resolution on this floor in support of Trevor Reed and Paul Whelan. It was, in fact, rewarding this morning to hear that Trevor was released; but, he should have never been held, and the exchange of prisoners should have never been necessary.

But today, Mr. Speaker, on a combined basis, Republicans and Democrats, let us issue a message to Paul Whelan: We have not forgotten you.

And let this message be clear that countries that engage in political hostage taking must stop the disgraceful practice and be held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support Representative STEVENS' resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 336 and, once again, call on the Russian Government to release American citizen, Paul Whelan. I thank my colleague, Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS, for her undying leadership in fighting this travesty—and it is a travesty.

It has now been over 3 years since Paul Whelan—a marine veteran, a Michigan resident, and, most importantly, an American citizen—was imprisoned in Russia without proper evidence or a fair trial. It was a sham trial; that is the messaging Paul wanted to convey to the world as an unjust Russian judicial system handed out a ridiculous sentence. Throughout his detainment, he has also been denied access to proper medical treatment, despite a sharp decline in his health.

Just this week, I returned from Ukraine where Russian atrocities have been on display to the entire world. Make no mistake about that. We saw heartbreaking devastation that has impacted so many lives. But tragically, Vladimir Putin's barbaric behavior is not new. He has no concern for even the most basic of human rights.

Today, the House must send an unequivocal message to the Kremlin: It is time to end the maltreatment of Paul Whelan.

We just learned the good news that Trevor Reed, another American detained in Russia, was released from prison. We are calling for Paul to be next.

I want to close with a message to Paul's dear parents, Rosemary and Ed, who live in my district in Manchester, Michigan; and to Paul's siblings, Elizabeth, David, and Andrew. I know this has been an incredibly trying time for your family. I admire your resolve in the face of adversity. I grieve with you. I pray for you. And I continue to stand with you.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Paul Whelan to come home to Michigan.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Representative HALEY STEVENS for her work on this resolution. You can tell it is from the heart, and we are working together, again, Republicans and Democrats.

How fortunate we are, with the leadership of Congressman TIM WALBERG, to have spent the Orthodox Christian Easter weekend in Ukraine to visit with Lviv, to be in Kiev, to be in the Bucha region where the atrocities were so horrific, and to be on a delegation with Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ, who was actually born in Soviet Ukraine, and now she has seen it become a free Ukraine. Our country is so blessed by the number of Ukrainians who have come to live in our country and then support their maintenance, victory, and winning for freedom in Ukraine.

As the world watches in horror at the war crimes and atrocities that the war criminal Putin is committing in Ukraine, we must also condemn the Russian dictator's practice of exploiting innocent Americans as political pawns.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution. This will send a strong message to Paul and the other wrongfully detained Americans in Russia that Congress will not rest until they are returned home to their families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

I also thank my dear friend and colleague from South Carolina for delivering to me a Ukraine-United States solidarity pin that I now wear proudly on my lapel.

Freedom is at the core of our American values. It is the backbone of democracy. We have Americans stuck in Russia and around the world being held against their will and without explanation to be used as political bargaining chips.

During this time of horrific atrocities, their safe and secure release is all the more imperative. H. Res. 336 takes action to secure the safety of our fellow Americans, including Brittany Griner and Paul Whelan, who are at the mercy of Vladimir Putin, an evil dictator who has no regard for human life.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 336, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASSESSING XI'S INTERFERENCE AND SUBVERSION ACT

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7314) to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the People's Republic of China's support to the Russian Federation with respect to its unprovoked invasion of and full-scale war against Ukraine, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7314

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Assessing Xi's Interference and Subversion Act" or "AXIS Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On February 4, 2022, weeks ahead of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, Russia and the People's Republic of China released a joint statement following a meeting between Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, which outlined a strategic partnership with "no limits" and no "forbidden" areas for cooperation.

(2) On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in an unprovoked and unjustified act of war.

(3) China abstained from voting on the February 25, 2022, United Nations Security Council resolution and the March 2, 2022, United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

(4) As of April 1, 2022, China has not publicly condemned Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine.

(5) In his call with Xi Jinping on March 18, 2022, President Joe Biden communicated that there would be "implications and consequences if China provides material support to Russia as it conducts brutal attacks against Ukrainian cities and civilians".

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the People's Republic of China's disinformation efforts relating to the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine make it culpable in whitewashing Russia's war crimes, which include the indiscriminate killing of countless Ukrainian men, women, and children; and

(2) if China is found to be materially supporting Russia in its war against Ukraine, there should be swift and stringent consequences for China.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of National Intelligence as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on whether and how the People's Republic of China, including the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, any Chinese state-owned enterprise, and any other Chinese entity, has provided support to the Russian Federation with respect to its unprovoked invasion of and full-scale war against Ukraine.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a discussion of the People's Republic of China support to the Russian Federation with respect to—

(1) helping the Government of Russia or Russian entities evade or circumvent United

States sanctions or multilateral sanctions and export controls;

(2) deliberately inhibiting onsite United States Government export control end-use checks, including interviews and investigations, in China;

(3) providing Russia with any technology, including semiconductors classified as EAR99, that supports Russian intelligence or military capabilities;

(4) establishing economic or financial arrangements that will have the effect of alleviating the impact of United States sanctions or multilateral sanctions;

(5) furthering Russia's disinformation and propaganda efforts;

(6) coordinating to hinder the response of multilateral organizations, including the United Nations, to provide assistance to the people or Government of Ukraine, to condemn Russia's war, to hold Russia accountable for the invasion and its prosecution of the war, or to hold those complicit accountable; and

(7) providing any material, technical, or logistical support, including to Russian military or intelligence agencies and state-owned or state-linked enterprises.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form and published on the Department of State's publicly available website.

(d) SUNSET.—The requirement to submit the report required by subsection (a) shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the Secretary of State determines the conflict in Ukraine has ended; or

(2) the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7314, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7314, the AXIS Act, authored by our committee colleague, Representative ANDY BARR.

The world watched in horror as Russia launched its latest invasion of Ukraine, marking an egregious violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and a disdain for the rules-based international order. Russia has mercilessly killed thousands of innocent civilians. Graphic images of death and destruction from Bucha and Mariupol lay bare: There is no defense for Putin's barbarity.

Amid this carnage, the international community has overwhelmingly come together to condemn Russia's brutal, unprovoked aggression against Ukraine and hold Russia accountable for the gross atrocities being committed.

While China has tried to distance itself from Russia's war of choice against Ukraine, it has, at best, remained neutral in the face of this violence, demonstrating a woeful abdication of its self-proclaimed role as a responsible stakeholder. Worse, growing signs indicate China is aligning itself more closely with Russia.

Just before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, President Putin and Chairman Xi released a joint statement calling for closer strategic cooperation. While China has publicly denied any foreknowledge of the invasion, it discounted and ignored American intelligence showing Russian buildup around Ukraine. At no point since the invasion began has China condemned Russia for its invasion nor for its subsequent human rights atrocities.

The PRC has chosen to employ a disinformation campaign to spread harmful narratives about Russia's assault on Ukraine. Both within China and abroad, the PRC is promoting Russian propaganda about the war and echoing Russian's absurd justifications for the invasion, going so far as accusing the United States for Russia's one-sided aggression.

President Biden has warned China that there will be consequences if it decides to materially support Russia's war or helps it skirt U.S. export controls and sanctions. H.R. 7314 would require the Secretary of State to report on any efforts made by the PRC to support Russia's unprovoked, unjust, and illegal invasion of Ukraine.

This bipartisan measure is vital to ensure Congress and the American people stay informed about how, if at all, China might be supporting Russia in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I support swift passage of this timely and urgent bill, I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the AXIS Act, A-X-I-S, a bill that is to require the Department of State to report on China's support of Putin's unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, the Chinese Communist Party is complicit in Russia's crimes against the people of Ukraine.

Xi and Putin established a no-limits partnership with their joint statement that foolishly cast NATO as an aggressor. They coordinated the timing of the invasion to avoid disturbing the CCP's genocide Olympics. The Chinese state media has regurgitated Russian propaganda, and instead of joining the world in sanctioning Putin, the CCP is working with Putin to avoid sanctions.

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We are already seeing the results of this unholy alliance between the two dictators, and it is essential that CCP support of the Russian invasion of Ukraine become a matter of public record.

I thank our colleague from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for introducing the AXIS Act. This bill requires an unclassified report on the full scope of CCP support of the Putin invasion, from sanctions violations, to disinformation, to the sale of controlled technology.

If the United States is going to counter the national security threat of this new axis of autocrats working together, we must understand how they are working together in the conflict between autocrats, which are ruled by gun, against democracy, which is ruled by law.

Mr. BARR's bill fills this need. I thank the gentleman for introducing the AXIS Act, and I urge our colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee, his leadership in the Congress, and his advocacy for the free people of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, as the United States, our NATO allies, and other allies respond to Vladimir Putin's unprovoked and brutal attack on the free, sovereign, and independent nation of Ukraine, we must assess the many ways in which Russia is seeking to evade sanctions. That includes the extent to which Russia is turning to China to enable its aggression.

Mr. Speaker, the unholy alliance between the Chinese Communist Party and the authoritarian oligarchs running the Kremlin is a serious threat to the United States and our allies. It is enabling this illegal aggression against Ukraine.

On February 4, Russia and the CCP released a joint statement following a meeting with Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping outlining a strategic partnership with "no limits."

Following Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, China refused to condemn Russia's gross violation of international law. China has continued to be silent while Russia targets and kills innocent women, children, and civilians in Ukraine.

Instead of condemning Putin's war crimes, the CCP is rewarding them. On February 28, after the invasion, the CCP struck a massive deal with the Russian energy company Gazprom. Gazprom will deliver 50 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year to the CCP under the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the United States to confront this new axis of evil

head-on. My legislation, the Assessing Xi's Interference and Subversion Act, or the AXIS Act, requires the U.S. State Department to submit an ongoing report to Congress detailing the CCP's support for Russia before and since the invasion of Ukraine. This includes troubling reports about CCP efforts to assist Russia in evading the effects of international sanctions.

The AXIS Act also requires the State Department to submit its first report to Congress within 30 days of the bill being enacted and 90 days thereafter. I plan on receiving a commitment from Secretary Blinken at tomorrow's Foreign Affairs Committee hearing that he will comply with this deadline.

I thank my Democratic and Republican colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, including Chairman MEEKS and Ranking Member MCCAUL, for their support. I thank my friend from Minnesota for his support of this legislation, and I thank my friend from South Carolina, as well, for helping us unanimously pass this bill out of committee.

The threat that this new axis of evil poses to the United States is not a Republican one or a Democratic one. It is an American one. This full report on the Russia-CCP alliance will inform the American public and enable lawmakers to begin positioning the United States to overcome this geopolitical challenge.

As a member of the House China Task Force, and with my strong belief that freedom must be defended from the aggression of authoritarians, like this invasion that we have seen, we must confront it; we must repel it; and we must call it out when we see it. That is why I urge all of my colleagues in the House to vote "yes."

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILSON for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the AXIS Act. We must take strong steps to investigate if and how the Chinese Government and affiliated entities are helping Russia evade sanctions after Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

While the United States, our NATO allies, and countries around the world have strongly condemned and taken action during Vladimir Putin's invasion, the silence and deference from Chinese Government officials is deafening.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi continues to say Russia is China's most important strategic partner. We know that as Russia continues to invade Ukraine, China is eyeing Taiwan. We must show dictators that they cannot invade a free country and ally unprovoked without consequences.

I am proud to cosponsor the AXIS Act, and I thank my friend, Congressman ANDY BARR, for leading this bill.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I especially appreciate the people of China. My father served in 1944 as a member of the Flying Tigers, the 14th Air Force of the Army Air Corps of the United States, to defend the people of China in World War II. He served in Kunming, Chengdu, and Xi'an, and he had a deep affection for the people of China. We want the best for the people of China.

Sadly, at every step of Russia's unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the CCP has chosen to reject the free world and embrace Putin's mass murder. Just last week, one of the CCP's top Foreign Ministry officials promised to increase strategic coordination with Russia, regardless of Russia's war crimes. But we know that Ukraine will win with the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

They need to be held accountable at the CCP, and Congressman ANDY BARR's legislation does just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to China and Russia, I do not trust empty words; I verify.

H.R. 7314, the AXIS Act, will help Congress and the American people stay informed about how, if at all, China might be supporting Russia in its unprovoked, unjust, and illegal invasion of Ukraine.

It is of the utmost importance for this body and the world to understand whether China is complicit in the gross atrocities and war crimes being committed against the Ukrainian people. Doing so will allow us to adjust our strategies and policies as necessary to further isolate Russia and deepen support for the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7314, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PROTECTING SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY CHAIN MATERIALS FROM AUTHORITARIANS ACT

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7372) to amend the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 to require the President to establish a semiconductor supply chain working group in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and submit reports to Congress on potential future disruptions to the supply chain.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7372

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Semiconductor Supply Chain Materials from Authoritarians Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE UKRAINE FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT OF 2014.

The Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 8921 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 11 as section 13; and

(2) by inserting after section 10 the following new sections:

"SEC. 11. WORKING GROUP ON SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the President shall establish an interagency working group to address semiconductor supply chain issues caused by the Russia's illegal and unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

"(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The interagency working group established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be comprised of the head, or designee of the head, of each of the following:

- "(1) The Department of State.
- "(2) The Department of Defense.
- "(3) The Department of Commerce.
- "(4) The Department of the Treasury.
- "(5) The Office of the United States Trade Representative.
- "(6) The Department of Interior.
- "(7) The Department of Energy.
- "(8) The Department of Homeland Security.

"(9) The Department of Labor.

"(10) Any other Federal department or agency the President determines appropriate.

"(c) CHAIR.—The Secretary of State shall serve as the chair of the working group established pursuant to subsection (a).

"SEC. 12. REPORTS ON SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS.

"(a) REPORT ON IMPACT OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of State shall submit to the committees listed in subsection (b) a report of the interagency working group that—

- "(1) reviews and analyzes—
- "(A) the impact of Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine on the supply of palladium, neon gas, helium, and hexafluorobutadiene (C4F6); and
- "(B) the impact, if any, on supply chains and the global economy;

"(2) recounts diplomatic efforts by the United States to work with other countries that mine, synthesize, or purify palladium, neon gas, helium, or hexafluorobutadiene (C4F6);

"(3) quantifies the actions resulting from these efforts to diversify sources of supply of these items;