

Of course, one of the most recent horrors, as was pointed out, was the Amsterdam pogrom earlier this month, the horrific mob assault on Israeli soccer fans.

It was repulsive on at least two levels. First, the brutal evil of the attackers themselves, but also the so-called respectable opinion-makers who just said: Oh, they shifted the blame. This is all about anti-immigrant sentiment or prejudice and even Israel.

Natan Sharansky is one of the greatest human rights individuals who has ever lived. I had him testify at two hearings. I tried to visit him and actually was in Perm Camp 35 in the 1980s where the Soviet Union had housed him. Frank Wolf and I went there.

When he got out, he came and testified, and he said: You know, if you don't chronicle the hatred—and that is included in these global guidelines—you can't combat it. It must be defined very clearly, especially by law enforcement, so it is not just brushed off as hooliganism or other kinds of things. You need to define it, and to do so with specificity.

He also talked about the three Ds that we are seeing manifesting vis-à-vis Israel every day of the week, and that is demonization, double standard, delegitimization, those three Ds. He talked about that and said that is a cover for anti-Semitism. Disagree with Knesset all you want or with Netanyahu, but once you lower yourselves into those—we see it at the U.N. every day.

I chaired four hearings this Congress alone, more than three dozen over the years, combating anti-Semitism about how the U.N. is rife—including the U.N. Human Rights Council—with anti-Semitism. It is just unbelievable how bad it is.

UNRWA is filled, overflowing with Hamas sympathizers and Hamas activists who teach children each day of the week to hate Jews and to kill. Just read the Hamas charter. It says: If you see a Jew behind a rock, kill him or her. That is what is being funded by the U.S. Government and funded—not right this minute—but it has been funded in the recent past. We should never do it again.

Let me also say that the guidelines—and I encourage every Member to read them—are very simple. They parallel the OSCE Conference that was held in 2002 and then the Berlin Conference in 2004. The idea of the conference came out of a hearing I chaired in 2002. I recommended it, and the OSCE took it up. The Bush administration took it up, and that conference had the Berlin Declaration in 2004. Rabbi Baker from the AJC did a masterful job—and a few others, but especially him—in wordsmithing a tremendous action plan. Of course, these global guidelines certainly parallel that—and as mentioned, certainly Ambassador Lipstadt.

Just for the record, I authored that legislation. We got it passed here in a bipartisan way, and it took months,

years for the U.S. Senate to take it up. They finally did and the Ambassador at Large of the Special Envoy, Ambassador Lipstadt, is doing a magnificent job.

Silence is not an option. We know it. In the fight against anti-Semitism we need government at all levels to denounce, chronicle, and prosecute where these thoughts matriculate into evil deeds.

We know that if you just stand by idly, you are enabling. You need to call it out. This is a very fine resolution, and I thank Ms. MANNING for authoring it. It calls out this anti-Semitism and says stop it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank my dear friend and colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for not just his work, but his passion on this critically important issue and his work for many, many years to combat anti-Semitism. I greatly value our friendship.

Mr. Speaker, throughout history, the persecution, expulsion, torture, and murder of Jews has not just destroyed Jews and their vibrant communities, it has brought decay and destruction to the countries that have committed those atrocities.

Sadly, we are seeing that happen today, even as we see Jews being blamed for their own destruction by their evil perpetrators. We must learn from history.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution condemns the frightening rise of anti-Semitism we are seeing today across the world in civilized communities. This resolution calls on countries around the globe to take specific actions to combat anti-Semitism by endorsing and embracing the landmark Global Guidelines for Countering Anti-Semitism.

Throughout history, as Jews were persecuted and tormented and expelled and murdered, those acts were perpetrated, fermented, and allowed by governments. Today, we have a different scenario because here in the United States, our government is standing firm against anti-Semitism and joining in the fight to combat anti-Semitism.

With these guidelines, we ask countries around the globe, we ask their governments, to join us in combating this horrific rise of anti-Semitism.

Once again, I thank my Republican cosponsor, CHRIS SMITH, for his leadership and for his bipartisan cooperation. I thank all of the leadership and my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as the leadership in Congress for bringing this resolution so swiftly to the House floor for a vote.

Now, more than ever, the United States and countries around the world must stand strong and must stand together in the fight against anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred. I urge my

colleagues to stand up and stand with me in supporting H. Res. 1449.

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Ms. MANNING and Mr. SMITH, for this important, timely, and bipartisan resolution. It is critically important that we speak with one voice in countering anti-Semitism.

We have been fighting against this hatred for centuries. We can only make progress if we work together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1449, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1449.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO REVIEW AND MODIFY ITS DECISION TO SUSPEND ADOPTION BY FOREIGN NATIONALS WITH A VIEW TO RESUMING SUCH ADOPTIONS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 915) urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and of the United States can be substantially addressed.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 915

Whereas adoption, including the adoption of child nationals of one country by adult nationals from another country, can be a profoundly beneficial way to unite children in need of parents with families that are eager and able to open their hearts and homes to children, providing the benefit of a permanent family to children who are orphaned or whose biological parents are otherwise unable to care for them;

Whereas adoptions require government safeguards to insure that they promote the best interest of the child and in order to prevent the abduction, sale, exploitation, or trafficking of children;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has not acceded to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, and the circumstances of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine render its accession currently difficult;

Whereas, since at least 1992, the Government of Ukraine has facilitated the adoption of Ukrainian children by United States citizens through its domestic law and process, and in the ensuing decades both Ukraine and the United States demonstrated that they shared the concern to protect and ensure the best interests of the child;

Whereas, as a direct result of the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Government of Ukraine temporarily suspended any adoption proceedings and protocols for the placement or adoption of its children with foreign nationals, on March 13, 2022;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine had very significant reasons to suspend intercountry adoption in March 2022, including that it was faced with the urgent and temporary displacement of Ukrainian children, including those who had been previously placed in institutional settings and orphanages, and the impossibility or extraordinary difficulty of conducting official business to protect and ensure the best interests of the child while under the shock of invasion and occupation of Ukrainian territory;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has substantially restored its ability to conduct official business, including resuming the process of adoptions by Ukrainian nationals since May 31, 2022; and

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has not lifted its suspension of the processing of adoptions by foreign nationals, including United States citizens, nor has it identified a time-frame or protocol for doing so: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoptions and preadoptive placements of Ukrainian children by United States citizens, and to actually and in good faith resume such adoptions in cases where the mutual concerns of the Government of the United States and of Ukraine to protect and ensure the best interests of the child can be substantially addressed;

(2) recommends as particularly urgent cases in which prospective adoptive United States parents have already complied with the requirements under Ukrainian domestic law for the adoption of Ukrainian children and that process has confirmed the legitimacy of the adoptability of these children, and cases in which the prospective adoptive United States parents have completed the process set forth under domestic Ukrainian law and have had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian Government before the suspension of the adoptions by foreign nations on March 13, 2022;

(3) recommends that in those cases in which Ukrainian children had already participated in "hosting" programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individual families within the United States prior to the suspension of adoptions by foreign nationals, that regarding those children which have already been determined by the Ukrainian Government to be legally adoptable, the United States parents be permitted to initiate the process for adoption and be permitted to receive the preadoptive placement of such children during the Ukrainian domestic adoption process; and

(4) recommends that in those cases in which Ukrainian children had already participated in "hosting" programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individual families within the United States prior to the suspension of adoptions by foreign nationals, that regarding those children whose status regarding legal adoptability remains uncertain at this time, the United States parents be permitted to make

application to receive such children in preadoptive placements until the Ukrainian Government either establishes their adoptability or locates or identifies their biological parents.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a brutal, unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In the almost 3 years since that dark day, Ukraine has suffered countless atrocities committed by Vladimir Putin's forces.

Russian forces are responsible for murdering more than 12,000 civilians with millions more displaced. However, Putin's war of aggression has impacted one demographic group the most, Ukraine's children.

Since the beginning of the war, over 500 children have been murdered by Russian forces and over 19,000 Ukrainian children have been forcibly abducted into Russia. According to the National Social Service of Ukraine, over 1,800 Ukrainian children have been orphaned. These children belonged to loving, caring families that were ripped apart by Putin's war of aggression. They have been brutalized and traumatized by almost 1,000 days of the most horrific conflict that Europe has seen in decades.

These children deserve a loving home and a second chance at a happy life. Thankfully, there are many families in the United States who wish to welcome these children with open arms.

On March 13, 2022, the Government of Ukraine temporarily suspended adoption proceedings and protocols for the placement or adoption of its children with foreign nationals.

□ 1400

This decision was made in the best interests of the children as the Ukrainian Government struggled to conduct official business under the shock of the early days of the invasion. However, since then, the government has substantially restored its ability to conduct official business.

This resolution urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoptions and preadoptive placements of Ukrainian children by U.S. citizens.

Recently, the Ukrainian Government confirmed that they will process inter-

country adoptions in limited circumstances and for persons who have already received an official referral from the National Social Service.

While this is a very positive step, more can be done to work with the Government of Ukraine to speed up adoptions.

These children deserve a second chance at life. American families stand ready with open arms to provide a healthy, safe, and stable environment for these children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 915, urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and the United States can be substantially addressed.

In the beginning of this Congress, my colleague from Texas and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman McCaul, held a number of hearings that underlined the evil actions and aims of Russia's war against Ukraine. We looked at oversight issues, questions regarding strategic goals, and other aspects of U.S. support for Ukraine. All of that committee work was designed to shore up support for the freedom of Ukrainians ahead of difficult decisions and difficult votes about the United States' support for Ukraine's sovereignty and its ability to defend itself against wanton, unjustified Russian assaults.

One of the fundamental reasons to support Ukraine in this war boils down to truth and justice, whether we will decry the depravity of Putin's actions in Ukraine or whether we will look away. No other issue brings this better into focus than the forcible transfer and deportation of Ukraine's children to camps promoting indoctrination. These are brutal war crimes, plain and simple.

We were able to meet some of these children who were able to escape Russia at a committee hearing, and it was heartbreaking.

Due to Russia's renewed war of aggression, Ukraine limited intercountry adoptions, including Americans seeking to adopt Ukrainian children. On June 1, 2023, the Government of Ukraine amended its suspension of adoptions by allowing relatives of orphaned children to adopt. Ukraine is also processing intercountry adoptions for persons who have already received an official referral from its National Social Service to adopt.

We must recognize the positive steps that Ukraine has taken to permit intercountry adoptions while promoting the welfare and safety of Ukrainian orphans. I commend the Ukrainian Government and the Department of State for working to address

such concerns, including by allowing American families the opportunity to adopt Ukrainian children and provide them a second chance at a life free of the miseries of war.

Furthermore, in March 2024, the United States, under President Biden's leadership, was proud to join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children. The goal is to ensure the safe return of all Ukrainian children who have been unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by Russia to Russia and to promote accountability for those responsible.

Unfortunately, this Russian war has left Ukraine wounded, its families destroyed, and its children orphaned. H. Res. 915 paves the way for a path forward, empowering the Department of State to continue its diplomatic engagements with the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy, the National Social Service of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington to help provide these children with families to help raise them.

I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, in supporting freedom and democracy for Ukraine, its people and its children, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when Russia launched its brutal invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Matt and Deidre Gordon of New Jersey were in the final stage of adopting Bogdan and Galena, an orphaned brother and sister from Ukraine.

The Gordons had been vetted and approved as adoptive parents by both the United States and Ukrainian Governments. They had a strong bond and relationship, they had a deep love, and they have a deep love for those two children and had spent precious time with them at their home in New Jersey, including regular contact and two long home stays totaling 5 months.

In March of 2022, however, during the first weeks of the Russian invasion, the Gordons had an appointment in Kyiv to be officially matched with the kids. It was at that point, however, that the Ukrainian Government temporarily suspended intercountry adoptions.

Arguably, the Government of Ukraine had reasons to suspend some adoptions, because of the fog of war and the difficulty in doing the requisite due diligence to safely and effectively process new adoption requests, but the Gordon case wasn't new. Matt and Deidre and many other Americans, hundreds of Americans, were nearing the end of the process when it all grounded to a halt leaving, in this case, these two children, and hundreds of other children, stranded.

Because of their deep love for their children, the Gordons have continued to visit Bogdan and Galena, who are in an institutional setting in Poland.

Let me just say, I did contact and wrote letters to President Zelenskyy, and this one goes back to July, asking for a remedy and to resolve this. We didn't even get an answer.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to President Zelenskyy.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

July 28, 2023.

His Excellency VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY,
President of Ukraine, Via: Oksana Markarova,
Ambassador, Washington, DC.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I write to urge you to review and modify your government's decision to suspend intercountry adoptions from Ukraine, particularly in cases in which the adoptive Ukrainian children have already participated in American homestays approved and facilitated by Ukrainian officials before the suspension of the adoption process on March 13, 2022.

Throughout my tenure in the U.S. Congress, I have focused much of my work on promoting human rights, freedom and democracy around the world, including supporting democratic reform in Ukraine since 1991. Similarly, I have led numerous efforts to secure the rights and dignity of children across the world who, due to their age and vulnerabilities, are often tragically neglected and abused.

As the author of landmark legislation on issues pertaining to children—including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act and the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation, as well as proposals that increased federal tax incentives to help overcome the upfront costs of adoption—I am acutely aware of the complexity of issues facing children internationally and the need for government oversight of intercountry adoption to fully ensure the “best interest of the child” throughout the process.

Notwithstanding your government's reasons for initially suspending intercountry adoptions in 2022, I now urge that Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy (MSP) revise that decision with a view to resuming intercountry adoptions in cases where our mutual concerns to protect and benefit children can be substantially addressed.

Principal examples of this include cases in which, first, the American adoptive parents have already had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian government, and, second, the Ukrainian children have been determined to be adoptable by the Ukrainian government, and, third, the Ukrainian children have already participated in homestays with the American families—such cases are few and were at or very near the end stage of the process on February 24, 2022. In such situations, Ukrainian children have come to know and feel themselves as part of American families. I urge your government to seek solutions in these cases that recognize the deep bonds that have grown between the children and parents and, consistent with Ukrainian law and regulations, permit adoptions to be finalized.

One family that finds itself in this situation is that of Matt and Deidre Gordon of New Jersey, and a boy and a girl—natural siblings—of Ukraine. After the Ukrainian government approved the Gordons' adoption dossiers in December 2021, their previously scheduled final appointment with MSP officials was cancelled in the wake of the invasion. The children, whom the Gordon parents have already come to know, now endure the agony of war while awaiting the day when they can reunite. Any immediate assistance you could provide in this urgent matter will be greatly appreciated. Having worked with

the family, please know I stand ready to provide additional information or assist in any way you deem appropriate.

Intercountry adoption is a profoundly beneficial way to help children in need of parents and families that are eager and able to open their hearts and homes to benefit children. I sincerely thank you for your strength and courage in defending your country in the face of Russia's brutal onslaught and urge you to help unite American families and Ukrainian children in new family environments that will enhance the love and lives of both parents and children.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Member of Congress.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of other children and U.S. families in the same or similar situations, as I have indicated.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 915, which respectfully urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals for adoptive parents like the Gordons and their children.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes specific recommendations, which I will put in the RECORD, including cases in which adoptive U.S. parents have already completed, as I mentioned, the requirements under the Ukrainian domestic law for the adoption of Ukrainian children and in which the adoptability of these children has already been confirmed and also which the adoptive U.S. parents have already had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian Government.

We ask them to please not delay any longer. Those kids want a loving home, and there is one awaiting them as we speak.

Second, there are also cases in which Ukrainian children have already participated in hosting programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individuals within the U.S. before suspension of adoption by foreign nationals.

Mr. Speaker, those kids have suffered much, certainly being in that kind of isolation. Orphanages are there, but it is so much better to be in a loving home. We have got a remedy sitting right at our fingertips. I am calling on the Ukrainian Government and President Zelenskyy, especially, to do so.

Let me also say, the Ukrainian Government resumed domestic adoptions and did that in June of 2022. There is an apparatus, there is a capability and a capacity to do this job.

I thank Matt and Deidre Gordon from New Jersey for bringing the needs of these Ukrainian children to my attention.

For his extraordinary leadership and compassion, I thank former State Senator Ray Lesniak for first suggesting that the House pass this resolution.

Special thanks to my good friend and colleague DONALD NORCROSS, who helped us craft this resolution and has been there every step of the way as the lead Democrat cosponsor. I thank Donald so much for his leadership on this important issue.

I also thank Mark Milosch, the Republican staff director of the Lantos Commission. Previous to that, when I chaired the Helsinki Commission, he was my chief of staff there, as well. He is very, very capable and really understands the European theater and the politics, and he helped us draft this, as well. I also thank Trent Bunker.

This resolution deserves the full support of this body, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), my friend and the lead Democrat on this important resolution.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MANNING for yielding.

I rise in support of H. Res. 915. I rise today for the Ukrainian children, those without a family, and for the Americans who wish to give them one.

It has been over 1,000 days since Russia invaded Ukraine. Ukraine suspended adoptions, for obvious reasons, by foreign nationals to protect the safety of their children, but as this war continues, the need to place these children in loving homes only grows.

Many Americans were in the process of adopting, some of those stories we just heard. These kids are stuck in limbo as war rages on.

In my home State of New Jersey, Andres and Farrah Meha were right in the middle of the process of adopting two of these children. They had formed strong bonds with these kids, and they had hosted them in their homes.

Right before this was going to work its way through the bureaucracy, an invasion began and changed everything. A few weeks later, those children had to return to Ukraine because of what Putin did and when war arrived in their home cities.

□ 1415

That is why I am urging the Ukrainian Government to resume adoptions by American citizens. There are no allies stronger than the U.S. Families across the U.S. stand ready with open arms to provide a healthy, safe, and stable environment for these children who deserve better.

I thank Ray Lesniak, who called me up to remind me that we need this passed. He is a wonderful friend whom I have served with in the New Jersey Senate. I thank CHRIS SMITH for what he continues to do each and every day.

The idea of these children who lost their families being in limbo, there is light at the end of this rainbow, and that is the American families who want to call them part of theirs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to engage and vote for H. Res. 915.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an unimaginable and agonizing time for the Ukrainian people, especially for the

Ukrainian children who, sadly, have been pawns in this terrible war.

It has been agonizing for adoptive parents like those we heard about today who have been waiting to give some of these children warm and loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is about doing what is right for Ukraine and for the children of Ukraine who have already endured such tragedy and hardship.

By working with Ukraine to reopen pathways for intercountry adoption, we are extending a lifeline to children who have been caught in the crossfire of an unjust war.

Let's make sure that, even in the darkest of times, we are creating pathways to brighten futures.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 915, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. SMITH and Mr. NORCROSS, for introducing this important resolution.

International adoption is a profound way to unite vulnerable children with families who are eager to open their hearts and homes. There are numerous families across the United States who want to be the light for Ukrainian children who have been surrounded by the darkness of Putin's war. We can offer hope to children who have been robbed of it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 915, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 915.

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. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1646

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAMMACK) at 4 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution as is follows:

Directing the Committee on Ethics to preserve and publicly release records of the Committee's review of the alleged violations of the House Code of Conduct and Federal law by Representative Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida.

Whereas, Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 2017, through November 13, 2024;

Whereas, Clause 2 of Section 5 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States establishes that: "Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings [and] punish its Members for disorderly behavior";

Whereas, clause 3(a)(2) of rule XI of the House of Representatives provides the Committee on Ethics the authority to investigate alleged violations by a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House of the Code of Official Conduct or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee in the performance of the duties or the discharge of the responsibilities of such individual;

Whereas, on April 9, 2021, the Committee on Ethics initiated review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and/or illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused State identification records, converted campaign funds to personal use, and/or accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift, in violation of House rules, laws, or other standards of conduct in violation of Federal law and the rules of the House;

Whereas, on June 18, 2024, the Committee on Ethics released a statement acknowledging the Committee's continued review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts, dispensed special privileges and favors to individuals with whom he had a personal relationship, and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct;

Whereas, if Representative Gaetz engaged in the alleged violations while serving as a Member of this body, such conduct would affect the rights of the House of Representatives and the integrity of the legislative process;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Committee on Ethics shall—

(1) preserve all documents and investigative materials related to any review of Matthew Louis Gaetz II's conduct while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives; and