

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, AND MR. WELCH):

S. 696. A bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 696

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 Our Guests During Hostilities in Ukraine Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in this Act that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) ELIGIBLE ALIEN.—The term “eligible alien” means an alien who was paroled under the Uniting for Ukraine parole process announced on April 21, 2022.

(3) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY UKRAINIAN GUEST STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible alien shall be considered to be admitted to the United States in Ukrainian guest status as of the date on which the eligible alien was first paroled into the United States.

(b) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—An alien in Ukrainian guest status under this section is authorized to be employed in the United States incident to and for the duration of such status.

(c) EXPIRATION.—Ukrainian guest status under this section shall expire on the date that is 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of State determines that—

(1) hostilities in Ukraine have ceased; and

(2) conditions in Ukraine allow for the safe and reasonable return of civilians to Ukraine.

(d) REVOCATION.—The Ukrainian guest status of an alien may be revoked if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the alien is described in section 241(b)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3)(B)).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 90—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. RISCH submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Foreign Relations which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 90

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the

Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,068,289, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this resolution shall not exceed \$10,402,781, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,334,492, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025;

(2) for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

SENATE RESOLUTION 91—ACKNOWLEDGING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S FURTHER INVASION OF UKRAINE AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 91

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale, unprovoked, and illegal invasion of Ukraine, which followed Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its illegal occupation of parts of the Donbas region in 2014;

Whereas the international community recognizes the sovereignty and full territorial integrity of Ukraine within the 1991 borders; and

Whereas the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the people of Ukraine have demonstrated a determined resistance that has prevented Russia from taking control of their country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses continued solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condolences for the loss of tens of thousands of Ukrainian people to Russian aggression;

(2) rejects Russia's attempts to militarily seize sovereign territory in Ukraine and elsewhere in Europe;

(3) reaffirms the support of the United States for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(4) commends NATO, the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, and the international community for their continued efforts to support Ukraine's defense and the protection of human rights on its territory;

(5) supports Ukraine's aspirations to integrate into Euro-Atlantic structures;

(6) recognizes Ukraine's efforts to strengthen its democracy during wartime;

(7) encourages the transatlantic community to continue to denounce Russia's illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine and counter Russian aggression; and

(8) emphasizes that Ukraine must be a participant in discussions with the Russian Federation about Ukraine's future.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was nearly 40 years ago President Ronald Reagan went to the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, and he said to the Soviets, “Tear down this wall.” Ronald

Reagan understood all too well what the Soviet regime was all about: It was a regime that had seized Eastern Europe and condemned millions of individuals to live under a cruel and repressive communist dictatorship.

My mother's family originally came from Lithuania, once an independent country, then a republic of the Soviet Union, now an independent democratic country again. That country meant a lot, and still does, to my family. I certainly recall the stories of my grandparents leaving the Russian domination and coming to America.

Until recently, Americans across the political spectrum, including Republican Presidents and Members of Congress, saw Russian tyranny for what it was—until now.

Today, we see President Trump doing the bidding of Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin. That is right: The President of the United States of America is using talking points that sound like they were whispered in his ear by the Kremlin, all while denigrating and bullying our true allies in the region.

If you don't believe me, listen to these quotes and try to guess whether Vladimir Putin or Donald Trump said them.

First, outrageously claiming Ukraine started the war with Russia:

It's they who have started the war.

Or:

You've been there for three years. You should have ended it. You should have never started it.

How about attacking the legitimacy of heroic wartime Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelenskyy, who was democratically elected in a free and fair election—something that has never taken place in Russia.

The legitimacy of the incumbent head of state of Ukraine is over.

Or calling him “a dictator without elections.”

In each of these stunning examples, one was spoken by Putin, the other by Trump. It is impossible to guess which is which, but you would be hard-pressed to figure it out because they are both using the same Kremlin propaganda.

It gets worse, with Donald Trump having negotiated away in public the key concessions to Russia to end the war, including appeasement of Ukraine's sovereign borders or possible future NATO membership.

Trump, with not even a phone call, gave those away without even negotiating and certainly didn't involve the Ukrainians, who have lost 46,000 brave Ukrainians who have died because of Putin's invasion.

Today, in a stunning, shameful move, the United States voted with Russia, North Korea, Belarus, and a handful of other dictatorships at the United Nations against a resolution condemning Russian aggression in Ukraine.

I want to repeat that because it is so historic and so mind-boggling. There was a resolution before the United Na-

tions condemning Russia on the third anniversary of their invasion of Ukraine, and the United States' representative voted against it, joined in that effort by Russia, itself, North Korea, Belarus, and a handful of other dictatorships.

What in the world is going on here? Former Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said of this tragic and unbelievable state of affairs that it sounded like there was a hand-out prepared by the Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov from which the Trump administration was reading.

He warned if Trump continues to back Russia:

Threats to Ukrainian security will grow immensely. Putin will get braver. Meaning, there will be more war, more invasion, more death in Moldova, the Baltics, Georgia, maybe even Poland.

President Trump's affinity for autocrats like Putin and selling out or bullying our allies isn't going to make America stronger or our world safer. Nor will his petulant and bumbling weekend gutting of our top military officers—a troubling act that raises serious questions about politicizing our proud, professional fighting force in America.

Let me be clear: We cannot let President Trump rewrite history or upend proven alliances with decades of bipartisan support. Because of the NATO alliance, we have avoided a third world war for more than 75 years. That is a fact.

Ultimately, only the Ukrainian people can decide Ukraine's future. For the United States to be party to any other scheme or conspiracy is just unacceptable.

Doing the bidding of foreign dictators and playing politics with our own military only undermine America's ability to be safe.

Today is the third-year anniversary of Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine. I am glad to join Senators SHAHEEN, TILLIS, WICKER, and others in leading a simple resolution that expresses continued solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condolences for the loss of thousands of lives to Russian aggression. I would think that every Senator of both political parties would sign on, but fortunately we do have a few, and it is bipartisan.

The resolution goes on to reject Russia's attempts to militarily seize sovereign Ukraine territory. It reaffirms U.S. support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. That used to be so obvious and so easy, no one would enter a resolution into the RECORD, but because of the new statements by President Trump and Vice President VANCE, it is necessary to state unequivocally that Ukraine must be at the table for negotiations over its future.

Think of that—46,000 people in Ukraine died to stop Putin's advance and invasion of Ukraine—46,000—and there was a suggestion that the negotiations for peace in the country would

take place without Ukraine seated at the table. How can that be possible?

This resolution is straightforward. It expresses what would have—before this current administration—been seen as a cut-and-dried statement of American values when standing up to bullies and tyrants like Vladimir Putin, a known war criminal.

I am also introducing a bill to grant Ukrainians who fled the war and are already legally present in the United States with temporary guest status. Oh, I know, it is immigration. It is an explosive issue. How in the world could we consider it? Let me tell you what happened in the city of Chicago.

The Governor of Texas sent 50,000 migrants in buses—800 buses—to the city of Chicago to dump these migrants into a situation where there was no place for them to stay, no provision for their food. It was an emergency situation. We did the humane thing. We did our best to take care of them and the children—50,000 from Texas. It was a controversial issue, and there were some who said “Don't spend a penny on them; spend it just on American citizens” and others who said “We have an obligation that goes beyond simple citizenship. It is a human obligation, a moral obligation,” and we did it.

At the same time that took place, there were 50,000 Ukrainians coming into the city of Chicago as well—different circumstances. They had to have a host family that would stand by them as they settled down in the city of Chicago, and they had to find jobs.

Do you know how much controversy there was about those 50,000 Ukrainians? None. They were assimilated into the economy and have become an important part of the city and our State, and I am proud that they are there.

So now what happens to them? The uncertainty of the continuing war in Ukraine, the embracing of Putin by President Trump—what is going to happen? With this United Nations resolution today, where we were just asked to acknowledge the war of 3 years and to stand by the Ukrainians, the United States voted no. The United States voted with Russia, with North Korea, and with Belarus.

We have to do something to help these Ukrainians who are here, who escaped the invasion of Putin and found peace and security in our country.

When the war started, across the country, Republicans opened their arms and hearts and communities to these desperate Ukrainians, even actively petitioning President Biden to protect them from deportation. So far, not a single Republican has cosponsored my bill. It is a new day in Washington. But I urge them to join this simple act of American compassion. Standing up to dictators and speaking out for victims of war should never be a partisan issue.

I want to end with a photo.

The year was 2014 when the late Senator John McCain and I led a bipartisan delegation to Ukraine that included current colleagues from Rhode

Island, Wyoming, and North Dakota. At the time, Russia had begun its attempts to seize Crimea and capture additional territory in the eastern part of Ukraine. Ukrainians had just bravely stood up for their own democracy, many paying with their lives in Maidan Square—an aspiration for freedom and democracy that frightened Putin and confirmed my belief in the strength of the human spirit.

You see here in this photo we are laying flowers on the makeshift shrines to those Ukrainians who were killed in the earliest days of their heroic effort to save their nation.

We should show no less courage here today on a bipartisan basis in making sure Ukraine's sovereignty and future are secure and not giving in, in appeasement to Putin—a move that could cost us dearly in the future.

It is personal to me. I mentioned to you earlier that my mother was born in the Baltic nation of Lithuania. It has been my good fortune to visit it during Soviet times and see the terrible impact of communism on the freedom of those people and to be standing by their side when they fought to have the day when they could have their own democracy and their own elections.

They survived. They prospered. They are great nations—Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia—and I know that their future is at stake by this decision by President Trump.

You cannot embrace Vladimir Putin and ignore the obvious. He is a thug. He has sent his invading troops in and killed 46,000 Ukrainians. Well, they say he has lost 800,000 of his own. Well, I am sorry that happened in a way, but he asked for it. He invaded Ukraine—don't make any mistake. It didn't happen the other way around. The Ukrainians didn't invade themselves. What kind of nonsense was that being spoken by the President?

We have to stand by the people of Ukraine and for the people of the Baltics, Moldova, and other states, like Poland, that are vulnerable to attack by Vladimir Putin. This is not a political charade. It is not a political game. It is the life-and-death reality of this dangerous world we live in.

Once again, the United States should be leading in democratic values and certainly not embracing the war criminal Vladimir Putin.

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 16, 2025, AS “NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY”

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 92

Whereas Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, was a member of the Lukaax.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of Kaaxgal.aat (referred to in this preamble as “Elizabeth”) who fought

for social equality, civil liberties, and respect for Alaska Native and Native American communities;

Whereas Elizabeth, who was born in 1911 in Petersburg, Alaska, experienced discrimination as a Tlingit woman, and dedicated her life to creating a better future for Alaska Natives;

Whereas more than 6,000 patriotic Alaska Natives protected the United States alongside non-Native Servicemen and women during World War II, despite suffering from unjust discrimination;

Whereas, in 1941, Elizabeth and her husband, Roy Peratrovich, moved to Juneau, the capital city of Alaska, to campaign tirelessly for the passage of the anti-discrimination legislation of Ernest Gruening, the Governor of Alaska, which would later result in the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945;

Whereas, in campaigning for the passage of anti-discrimination legislation, Elizabeth persevered for several years traveling across the Alaska Territory enabling, rallying, and uniting Alaska Natives to fight for recognition that they are created equal to others and equally endowed with “unalienable Rights”;

Whereas Elizabeth was a powerful orator who envisioned unity and then spoke it into existence through community advocacy and the support of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood;

Whereas Elizabeth testified strongly before the Alaska Territorial legislature vote on the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, passionately asking the legislature, “Have you eliminated larceny or murder by passing a law against it? No law will eliminate crimes but, at least you as legislators, can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination.”;

Whereas the Alaska Territorial Legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 on February 16, 1945, which was the first anti-discrimination law enacted in the history of the United States;

Whereas Elizabeth dedicated the rest of her life to creating a better Alaska for future generations;

Whereas Elizabeth tragically died of cancer in 1958, but her legacy has not been forgotten;

Whereas, beginning in 1988, the State of Alaska has recognized February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day; and

Whereas, in 2020, the United States Mint released the Elizabeth Peratrovich \$1 coin to commemorate the significant impact that Elizabeth had on advancing equality under the law in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 16, 2025, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day by remembering the work of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich and other civil rights leaders; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States and Members of Congress to commemorate the life and civil rights advocacy of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich by continuing the important work of ensuring equality for Alaska Natives and Native Americans.

NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 92, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 92) designating February 16, 2025, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 21, Daniel Driscoll, to be the Secretary of the Army; further, that at 11:15 a.m., the Senate execute the order of February 24 with respect to the Driscoll nomination and that following disposition of the Driscoll nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and the majority leader be recognized; finally, if a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11, is made, that following the vote on that motion, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings, and that if the motion is agreed to, all time during recess count equally between proponents and opponents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORENO. For the information of all Senators, Senators should expect a vote to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11, Senator KENNEDY's CRA, at approximately 12 noon tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.