

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to
3 which was referred Senate Joint Resolution J.R.S. 42 entitled “Joint resolution
4 condemning the Russian Federation’s military and political actions in Ukraine
5 and especially their impact on Ukrainian children” recommends the resolution
6 be amended by striking out all Whereas and Resolved clauses and inserting in
7 lieu thereof the following:

8 *Whereas*, the large-scale Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine on
9 February 24, 2022, significantly extended its already existing occupation of
10 sovereign Ukrainian territory, and

11 *Whereas*, this occupation was initiated with the February–March 2014
12 invasion of Crimea, which the Russians quickly annexed, premised on the
13 dubious election they ordered and controlled, and later in 2014 Russia invaded
14 the Donbas region of Ukraine, and

15 *Whereas*, these illegal invasions are violative of Article 2(4) of the United
16 Nations Charter that provides “All members shall refrain in their international
17 relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or
18 political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with
19 the Purposes of the United Nations,” and

20 *Whereas*, according to the Brookings Institution, these Russian actions also
21 “violated the agreement among the post-Soviet states in 1991 to accept the

1 then-existing republic borders.... the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security
2 Assurances for Ukraine and [the] 1997 Ukrainian-Russian Treaty of
3 Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership,” and

4 *Whereas*, the continuing presence and reinforcement of Russian military
5 personnel, the ongoing land-based warfare, and the unrelenting onslaught of
6 missiles and drones on civilian infrastructure, which have wrought havoc and
7 loss of life on Ukrainians located far from the front lines of ground combat,
8 including leaving millions of civilians without regular heating and power for
9 months during Ukraine’s harsh winter, have all severely and negatively
10 impacted daily life in Ukraine, and

11 *Whereas*, the war’s effect on Ukrainian children has been devastating, and

12 *Whereas*, on March 9, 2022, Russian forces attacked a maternity hospital in
13 Mariupol, Ukraine, a key event in a multimonth siege on that Ukrainian city,
14 and, according to the Mayor of Mariupol, over 20,000 Ukrainians perished due
15 to this attack, and

16 *Whereas*, the Yale School of Public Health Humanitarian Research Lab (the
17 Lab) has identified at least 210 sites where Russians have relocated Ukrainian
18 children, which are located in either Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine or
19 within Russia’s internationally recognized borders, and they includes camps or
20 centers dedicated to the systematic reeducation (attempting to change the
21 children’s language and cultural heritage) or militarization of Ukrainian

1 children, and in some instances they serve as a facilitator for involuntary
2 Russian family adoptions, and

3 *Whereas*, Lab researchers assessed there is “a substantial basis for
4 violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention and [the] 1977 Additional Protocol
5 and Rome Statute of the International Court (Rome Statute) that amounts to
6 war crimes and crimes against humanity,” and

7 *Whereas*, Maria Lvova-Belova, the Presidential Commissioner for
8 Children’s Rights of the Russian Federation, is closely associated with her
9 nation’s policy of abducting Ukrainian children, now numbering in the
10 thousands, facilitating their forced relocation, and, in some instances, their
11 involuntary adoption into Russian families or forced placement in the Russian
12 military, and

13 *Whereas*, on June 16, 2022, the proxy Russian government of the occupied
14 Kherson region of Ukraine announced that all newborns would be granted
15 Russian citizenship and that orphans will also be registered as Russian citizens;
16 further, on July 11, 2022, Secretary-General of the United Nations António
17 Guterres ordered an investigation into the deaths and injuries of Ukrainian
18 children, and

19 *Whereas*, according to the Office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr
20 Zelenskyy, Ukrainian military casualties now exceed 390,000 wounded and
21 55,000 dead; the nation’s Ministry of Internal Affairs, with collaboration from

1 on the ground nongovernmental organizations, reports that between 80,000 and
2 90,000 Ukrainian soldiers are missing, and the vast majority are presumed
3 dead; the United Nations reports verifiable civilian casualties exceeding 41,000
4 wounded and 15,000 dead in communities the Russians did not occupy quickly
5 in 2022, and therefore, for example, not including the separate estimated
6 Mariupol casualty count, *now therefore be it*

7 ***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

8 That the General Assembly condemns the Russian Federation’s illegal
9 invasion of sovereign and internationally recognized Ukrainian territory, *and*
10 *be it further*

11 ***Resolved:*** That the General Assembly condemns the Russian Federation’s
12 abduction and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children; the large network of
13 camps and centers that facilitate the cultural and linguistic reeducation of
14 Ukrainian children and the corresponding impact on the future of Ukraine’s
15 cultural, linguistic, and national identity; and the involuntary adoption and
16 military induction of seized Ukrainian children, *and be it further*

17 ***Resolved:*** That the General Assembly strongly urges the government of the
18 Russian Federation to cease immediately its bombardment of Ukrainian
19 infrastructure, withdraw its forces from Ukraine’s internationally recognized
20 territory, and return to Ukraine all children whom it has forcefully removed,
21 *and be it further*

1 **Resolved:** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this
2 resolution to the Russian Federation and Ukrainian ambassadors to the United
3 States, President Donald J. Trump, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

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6 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE