

**Suspend the Rules And Agree to the Resolution, H. Res. 447 with
Amendments**

**(The amendments consist of a new preamble and a complete new
text)**

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 447

Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine,
and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2013

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING,
and Mr. GERLACH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the
people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own
future free of intimidation and fear.

Whereas a democratic, prosperous, and independent Ukraine
is in the national interest of the United States;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has declared integration
with Europe a national priority and has made significant
progress toward meeting the requirements for an Associa-
tion Agreement;

Whereas on November 21, 2013, following several months of
intense outside pressure, Ukrainian President Viktor

Yanukovych abruptly suspended negotiations on the Association Agreement one week before it was due to be signed at the European Union's Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania;

Whereas this reversal of stated government policy precipitated demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens in Kyiv as well as in cities throughout the country;

Whereas the demonstrators have been overwhelmingly peaceful and have sought to exercise their constitutional rights to freely assemble and express their opposition to President Yanukovych's decision;

Whereas the demonstrators have consistently expressed their support for democracy, human rights, greater government accountability, and the rule of law, as well as for closer relations with Europe;

Whereas on November 30, 2013, police violently dispersed peaceful demonstrators in Kyiv's Independence Square, resulting in many injuries and the arrest of several dozen individuals;

Whereas on December 11, 2013, police raided 3 opposition media outlets and the headquarters of an opposition party;

Whereas on December 11, 2013, despite President Yanukovych's statement the previous day that he would engage in talks with the opposition, police attempted to forcibly evict peaceful protesters from central locations in Kyiv;

Whereas several journalists, including from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and civic activists supporting the demonstrators have been brutally attacked;

Whereas on January 16, 2014, the Ukrainian parliament passed, and President Yanukovich signed, legislation which severely limits the right of peaceful protest, constrains freedom of speech and the independent media, and unduly restricts civil society organizations;

Whereas the passage of these undemocratic measures and President Yanukovich's refusal to engage in substantive dialogue with opposition leaders precipitated several days of violence and resulted in several deaths and hundreds of injuries, as well as numerous allegations of police brutality; and

Whereas in the face of spreading demonstrations, Ukrainian Government representatives and opposition leaders have entered into negotiations which on January 28, 2014, resulted in the resignation of the Prime Minister and his cabinet and the repeal of most of the anti-democratic laws from January 16, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) greatly values the warm and close relation-
3 ship the United States has established with Ukraine
4 since that country regained its independence in
5 1991;

6 (2) supports the democratic and European aspi-
7 rations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to
8 choose their own future free of intimidation and
9 fear;

10 (3) calls on the United States and the Euro-
11 pean Union to continue to work together to support
12 a peaceful resolution to the crisis, and to continue

1 to support the desire of millions of Ukrainian citi-
2 zens for democracy, human rights, government ac-
3 countability, and the rule of law, and closer relations
4 with Europe;

5 (4) urges the Government of Ukraine, Ukrain-
6 ian opposition parties, and all protesters to exercise
7 the utmost restraint and avoid confrontation, and
8 calls on the Government of Ukraine to live up to its
9 international obligations and respect and uphold the
10 democratic rights of its citizens, including the free-
11 dom of assembly and expression, as well as the free-
12 dom of the press;

13 (5) condemns all acts of violence and calls on
14 the Government of Ukraine to bring to justice those
15 responsible for violence and brutality against peace-
16 ful protesters, and to release and drop any criminal
17 charges against those detained for peacefully exer-
18 cising their democratic rights;

19 (6) welcomes the repeal by the Ukrainian par-
20 liament of most of the anti-democratic measures
21 adopted on January 16, 2014, and urges President
22 Yanukovich to continue to engage in substantive
23 talks with opposition leaders to address the legiti-
24 mate grievances of the opposition, and to take addi-
25 tional steps to de-escalate tensions;

1 (7) urges the United States and the European
2 Union to continue to make clear to Ukraine's leaders
3 that those who authorize or engage in violence
4 against peaceful protesters will be held personally
5 accountable;

6 (8) supports the measures taken by the Depart-
7 ment of State to revoke the visas of several Ukrain-
8 ians linked to the violence, and encourages the Ad-
9 ministration to consider additional targeted sanc-
10 tions against those who authorize or engage in the
11 use of force; and

12 (9) urges all parties to engage in constructive,
13 sustained dialogue in order to find a peaceful solu-
14 tion to Ukraine's current political and economic cri-
15 sis.