

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 447
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

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

Whereas closer relations with the European Union (EU) through the signing of an Association Agreement should promote democratic values, good governance, and economic opportunity in Ukraine;

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

Whereas on November 21, 2013, following several months of intense outside pressure, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich abruptly suspended negotiations on the Association Agreement one week before it was due to be signed at the EU'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 Yanukovich'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 Yanukovich'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 United States, European, and other leaders have urged all sides to exercise restraint and have warned the Ukrainian Government against the use of violence against peaceful protesters, and have further called on the government to engage in substantive dialogue with the opposition to resolve the current political and economic crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

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

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

9 (3) calls on the United States and the Euro-
10 pean Union to continue to work together to support
11 a peaceful resolution to the crisis, and to continue
12 to support the desire of millions of Ukrainian citi-
13 zens for democracy, human rights, government ac-

1 countability, and the rule of law, and closer relations
2 with Europe;

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

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

17 (6) calls on President Yanukovych and the Par-
18 liament of Ukraine to rescind immediately the meas-
19 ures adopted on January 16, 2014, and restore full
20 democratic protections and fundamental rights to
21 Ukrainian citizens, and urges President Yanukovych
22 to engage in substantive talks with opposition lead-
23 ers to address the legitimate grievances of the oppo-
24 sition;

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.

