

an issue we can allow to fade into the background—ever. As the resolution notes in just its second clause, this was Putin's original sin in Ukraine.

If we are to deter, Mr. Speaker, further Russian separatist and revanchist moves in eastern Ukraine, we must never yield on Crimea.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, once again, I want to voice my strong support for this resolution. I again thank Mr. CICILLINE for authoring this measure and his leadership, and I thank our chairman once again.

Even with a cease-fire in place, the crisis in Ukraine is a major threat to the international order. The United States stands with the people of Ukraine as they try to chart the path forward for their country and restore their territorial integrity. So long as President Putin's aggression continues, we need to stay focused on this serious challenge. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me again thank ELIOT ENGEL, along with Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. CONNOLLY—cosponsors of this resolution with myself and other members of that committee—but mention in particular the decision we made to go as far east in Ukraine as we could. We traveled to the border of Luhansk and Donetsk, actually, because Dnipropetrovsk was where we flew in. To the south is Donetsk. To the east is Luhansk.

One of the great advantages of having with us the ranking member—an individual who knows the country well and knows the people well, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL—is the fact that both of his grandparents on his mother's side are from Ukraine and both of his grandparents on his father's side are from Ukraine.

It is a reminder to us of the long struggle, the long, ardent effort, for independence, for some modicum of freedom, that the people of Ukraine have struggled for all of these years, a dream that finally seemed realized; and now, in the wake of that, you have the occupation of the eastern and southern parts of the country.

I think it is a reminder to all of us of how we can be surprised on the world stage. The United States, in my opinion, could do more in this particular case to end the aggression. As people told us in Dnipropetrovsk—and we were there, actually. We had a service in the synagogue where Mr. ENGEL spoke during Passover. People asked us in each of these groups—the city council, the governor, the women's groups, the different civil society groups—they said: We can handle the fact that every skin-headed malcontent that Putin can

recruit, that he radicalizes, and he trains—then they send them here, and we capture them, and we hold them in our brig until the end of hostilities—but what is a real challenge is the Russian armor, that Russian equipment out there. We can't match that. We need anti-tank missiles.

Now, anti-tank weapons is what they have asked for. Many of us in Congress, myself included, have asked that we more forcefully oppose Russian aggression by giving those people on those frontlines the armaments they need to defend themselves, and the House has gone on record as taking this position.

I think it would be a deterrent against Russian aggression that has brought so much suffering, and my hope is that, as we go forward, we convince the administration as well.

The local elections scheduled for this Sunday are a concrete example that Ukrainians are determined to do all that they can to achieve peace throughout the entirety of that country. By overwhelmingly adopting this bipartisan resolution, I believe the House will send a clear message to the Ukrainian people that the United States remains committed to their right to have Ukrainians choose their own government and choose their own destiny.

I want to thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for authoring this particular bill, and I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 348 to support the right of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and determine their future, which was introduced by my friend, Representative DAVID CICILLINE.

Citizens everywhere should be afforded the right to freely choose their leaders—and the people of Ukraine are no different. It is imperative that the American people stand with Ukrainians to ensure that the future of their government is determined freely and fairly.

Russian troops began an illegal occupation of Crimea following the resignation of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in March 2014. In spite of economic sanctions, diplomatic efforts and successive ceasefires, we have tragically seen over 6,500 people killed in eastern Ukraine since Russia annexed Crimea. Russia's continued violations of the Minsk agreement by ignoring the ceasefire is simply unacceptable. Their actions betray their previous commitments and have derailed good faith efforts to de-escalate the crisis in Ukraine. Russia's continued military aggression in Ukraine threatens peace and security in the region. Russia's aggression has also hindered the electoral process and disenfranchised voters in the troubled region. I support Ukraine's right to determine their own future, protect their territorial integrity and we must do all we can to prevent the slaughter of innocent lives.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage the passage of H. Res. 348, supporting the right of Ukrainian citizens to freely elect their officials and determine their future. I would like to emphasize the importance of protecting democracy around the world. In 2015, it is essential that we ensure

people at home and abroad are able to elect their government representatives by exercising this basic right.

This issue is of particular importance to me as the Congressional Representative for the 14th District of Michigan, which is home to a large population of women and minorities who fought hard to gain the right to vote. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which is of critical importance in protecting every citizen's right to participate in free and fair elections. However, fair elections are also vital to democracies across the globe. Therefore, we must act appropriately when those rights are infringed upon.

This resolution demonstrates the federal government's commitment to protect Ukraine's critical elections. Ukraine's next local elections are scheduled to take place on October 25, 2015 and are essential for the continuation of legislative and constitutional reform. We cannot allow Russia or other outside forces to interfere with Ukraine's elections, especially through intimidation, violence, or coercion. By supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and have a say in their future, we are working toward ensuring all people around the world benefit from these basic yet profoundly critical rights.

I am grateful that our chamber is continuing with our legacy of safeguarding democracy. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting America's commitment to defending these important freedoms around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 348, as amended.

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. ROYCE. 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 until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.