

## Enrolled

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 23

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL AND  
WORLD AFFAIRS

Whereas Ukraine gained independence in 1991 and is a sovereign, democratic and law-based state that protects basic human rights and liberties; and

Whereas Article 15 of Ukraine's constitution states that Ukrainian social life shall be "based on the principles of political, economic and ideological diversity"; and

Whereas Article 15 further states that no ideology is recognized as mandatory by the state; censorship is prohibited; and the state guarantees freedom of political activities not prohibited by the constitution and laws of Ukraine; and

Whereas in July 2014, Ukraine was officially recognized as an ally of the United States by the U.S. Senate; and

Whereas in December 2022, speaking before a joint session of the United States Congress, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked the American people for their support of Ukraine and for their resolve for Ukrainian independence and victory; and

Whereas there are more than 22,000 Ukrainian Americans in Oregon, and Oregon has been a home and refuge for Ukrainian immigrants for decades; and

Whereas the State of Oregon acknowledges the significant contributions of the Ukrainian community residing within its borders, which has brought forth an array of talents, entrepreneurial spirit and traditions that have deeply enriched Oregon's economy, culture and civic life; and

Whereas Oregon was among the first U.S. states to officially recognize the tragedy of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, including the passage of Senate Bill 583 (2023), which established Holodomor Remembrance Day; and

Whereas approximately 4,500 Ukrainians have arrived in Oregon since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, upending their lives and forcing them to flee the danger and destruction inflicted on their homeland; and

Whereas Oregon's Department of Human Services plans to distribute \$2.25 million in federal grants to help refugees from war-torn Ukraine gain access to housing assistance, employment services, health and mental health programs, legal services and aid for senior citizens; and

Whereas within Oregon, the City of Corvallis shares a sister city relationship with the Ukrainian community of Uzhhorod, and the City of Portland shares a friendship city relationship with the City of Lviv in Ukraine; and

Whereas more than 30 communities in Ukraine maintain a sister city or similar relationship with communities in the United States; and

Whereas in 2024, Ihor Taburets, the Governor of Cherkasy Oblast, met virtually with Oregon's Senate Interim Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs and requested a formalized sister state relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast; and

Whereas Oregon and the Cherkasy region of Ukraine share many mutual values, aspirations and interests, including economic cooperation, education, arts and culture, agriculture, energy, governance, health, biotechnology, humanitarian assistance, environmental sustainability, science and technology; and

Whereas Russian military forces committed an unprovoked and unjustified attack on the people of Ukraine, inflicting catastrophic loss of life and destruction; and

Whereas on February 24, 2025, a peaceful solidarity gathering was held at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland to mark the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly recognizes and thanks the many organizations and groups in Oregon, such as the nonprofit entity DAWN, which have provided vital humanitarian aid and support to the Ukrainian community; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, support the establishment of a sister state ceremonial relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine; and be it further

Resolved, That the State of Oregon stands in unwavering solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and we condemn in the strongest terms Russia's premeditated and unjust war against a peaceful, sovereign nation; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the Governor of Cherkasy Oblast as an expression of our solidarity and commitment to this partnership.

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Adopted by Senate March 17, 2025

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Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 21, 2025

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House