



# UKRAINIAN NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE

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April 21, 2021

Dear Friends of Ukraine,

The United States Congress was quite active today in their support of Ukraine-related legislative initiatives.

## United States Senate

During a business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, senators reviewed S.814, the Ukraine Security Partnership Act of 2021. The bill was favorably voted upon in the Committee and will now be sent to the entire Senate for a vote. Highlights of the bill include:

- Statement of Policy never recognizing the attempted illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation and utilizing all measures under existing sanctions laws to deter Russian malign activities in Ukraine
- Appointment of a Special Envoy for Ukraine
- Establishment of a United States-Europe Working Group on Ukraine
- Authorization of \$300 million in Foreign Military Financing for each fiscal year 2022-2026

Of particular interest were two amendments proposed and unanimously passed. The first amendment would include additional authorization of \$50 million for each fiscal year 2022-2026 to strengthen Ukraine's cybersecurity, law enforcement programs, corporate governance, financial sectoral reform, and other needed anti-corruption training procedures, capacity building of Ukraine civil society, and other measures. The second amendment highlights the need for additional sanctions against the NordStream2 pipeline. Both amendments were unanimously agreed upon by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee members.



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## United States House of Representatives

The House Foreign Affairs Committee held its mark-up meeting today and reviewed two bills of importance: H.R.496 – the Ukrainian Religious Freedom Support Act and H.R.402 – the Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy (CROOK) Act.

The Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act states policy that the United States will never recognize the attempted illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation and designates Russia “as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.”

The CROOK Act mentions that corrupt officials in the Russian Federation use their stolen money “a) to purchase key assets in other countries, often with a goal of attaining monopolistic control of a sector; b) to gain access to and influence the policies of other countries; and c) to advance Russian interests in other countries, particularly those that undermine confidence and trust in democratic systems.” The bill establishes an Anti-Corruption Action Fund that would assist foreign states to develop anti-corruption programs and procedures.

Both bills were favorably voted upon by the House Foreign Affairs Committee and will now pass to the House floor for a vote in the future.

Additional information regarding sponsors and co-sponsors of the above-mentioned bills and projected congressional voting schedules will be provided in a separate e-mail.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) at: [unis.sawkiw@gmail.com](mailto:unis.sawkiw@gmail.com).

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