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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing support for Moldova's democracy, independence, and territorial integrity and strengthening United States and Moldova relations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for Moldova's democracy, independence, and territorial integrity and strengthening United States and Moldova relations.

Whereas August 27, 2021, marks 30 years of the Republic of Moldova's independence;

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with Moldova on February 18, 1992, and the 2 countries have since enjoyed expanded and positive relations;

Whereas since Moldova's independence in 1991, the United States has supported the people of Moldova's efforts to build a prosperous European democracy;

Whereas Moldova and the United States have partnered to support the people of Moldova with \$1,700,000,000 in assistance to help the country improve security and realize their democratic aspirations;

Whereas the United States and Moldova further strengthened their partnership through the launching of the inaugural Strategic Dialogue on March 3, 2014;

Whereas the Strategic Dialogue has focused on advancing shared interests in democracy, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption, energy independence, economic development, and security cooperation;

Whereas Congress and State and local communities have a history of engaging with Moldovan young leaders, civil society, and Members of Parliament through official exchanges;

Whereas Moldova has participated in Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) programs, including an MCC Threshold program completed in 2010 that resulted in significant accomplishments in the judiciary and health sectors and an MCC Compact in 2015 that invested \$259,000,000 to improve the country's road infrastructure and transition to high-value agriculture and resulted in building a main trade artery from Soroca to Chisinau;

Whereas the Republic of Moldova ratified an association agreement containing comprehensive free trade provisions with the European Union in 2014 and the agreement became fully effective in July 2016;

Whereas, in March 2020, Moldova completed a 3-year International Monetary Fund program focused on banking system reforms, financial sector governance strengthening, and macrofinancial stability, and in October 2021,

reached a provisional loan agreement worth \$564,000,000 over 3.3 years with the International Monetary Fund;

Whereas the United States supports Moldova's endeavors to increase transparency and hold corrupt actors accountable, particularly efforts relating to money laundering and financial fraud and seeking appropriate redress and seizure of corrupt assets;

Whereas, in November 2020, the Moldovan people directly elected its first female President, Maia Sandu, who campaigned on fighting corruption, reinvigorating economic reforms, supporting judicial independence, revitalizing European integration efforts, and strengthening relations with the United States and the European Union;

Whereas, in July 2021, Moldova held parliamentary elections in which President Sandu's anticorruption and reform-minded platform was overwhelmingly supported by the people of Moldova;

Whereas, since August 6, 2021, women serve as both Moldova's head of state and head of government;

Whereas according to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the most recent elections were "well administered, competitive and fundamental freedoms were largely respected";

Whereas the Republic of Moldova has consistently and historically carried out well-administered and competitive elections that result in nonviolent transitions of power;

Whereas the United States commends and supports the new Moldovan Government's priorities of justice sector reform, combating corruption, creating jobs for Moldovan

citizens, improving infrastructure and living standards, strengthening relationships with the West and other international partners, and combating the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas continued efforts to improve governance, combat corruption, and adopt domestic economic reforms will further bolster Moldova's ability to secure loan packages from international donors such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Union;

Whereas Moldova's main trading partner is the European Union;

Whereas as a member of the European Union's Eastern Partnership, Moldova's European integration should be a high priority with the goal of eventual European Union membership;

Whereas the United States Government supports the democratic and European aspirations of the people of the Republic of Moldova, including their expressed desire to join the European Union;

Whereas, in a judgment in 2004, the European Court of Human Rights found that Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria was created with the support of the Kremlin and considered it "under the effective authority or at least decisive influence" of the Kremlin;

Whereas the United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and on that basis participates as an observer in the "5+2" negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement that will provide a special status for Transnistria within Moldova's internationally recognized borders;

Whereas the Kremlin maintains a contingent of military forces and a stockpile of military equipment and ammunition within the Transnistrian region constituting an occupation of Moldovan territory and a violation of Moldova's territorial sovereignty;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission to Moldova, and the Government of Moldova have called upon the Kremlin to remove its troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas, in July 2017, the Moldovan Parliament adopted a declaration calling on the Kremlin to withdraw its troops from Moldova;

Whereas, on September 22, 2021, Moldovan President Maia Sandu addressed the United Nations General Assembly and called for the Kremlin to withdraw its troops from the Transnistrian region;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed by an overwhelming majority, and the President signed into law, S. 2183, providing for a United States international broadcasting programming surge to counter disinformation from Kremlin-supported news outlets and ensuring that Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and Moldova have access to independent news and information;

Whereas Moldova has been a valued and reliable partner in promoting global security by participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Central African Republic, Kosovo, and South Sudan, supporting United States efforts to increase international cooperation in

combating terrorism, and providing demining units and postconflict humanitarian assistance in Iraq;

Whereas, since 1996, Moldova's Armed Forces have participated in the United States National Guard State Partnership Program as a partner to the North Carolina National Guard;

Whereas, in 1999, the existing defense relationship between the North Carolina National Guard and the Defense Forces of Moldova led to the creation of the Moldova-North Carolina Bilateral Partnership, which has been formally renewed in 2004, 2010, 2015, and 2019, to facilitate cooperation in the areas of civil emergency operations, expansion of markets, coordination of humanitarian efforts and cultural, scientific, and academic exchanges between the State of North Carolina and Moldova;

Whereas Moldova cooperates with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization through the Partnership for Peace program, including participation in the Defense and Related Security Capacity Building Initiative, a flagship defense reform partnership focused on reforming and modernizing Moldova's Armed Forces to improve expertise, interoperability, and peacekeeping capabilities;

Whereas the United States and the European Union and other partners have cooperated to support Moldova's democratic aspirations and deepen European integration;

Whereas, on September 21, 2021, President Biden addressed the 76th United Nations General Assembly stating that the democratic world "lives in the proud Moldovans who helped deliver a landslide victory for the forces of democ-

racy, with a mandate to fight graft, to build a more inclusive economy”; and

Whereas the United States provided more than \$7,000,000 in assistance to Moldova for combating COVID–19, including 500,000 United States donated vaccines: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the historical significance of
3 Moldova’s independence and reaffirms the commit-
4 ment of the United States on supporting the
5 Moldovan people in their efforts to strengthen demo-
6 cratic governance, root out corruption, increase eco-
7 nomic prosperity, support energy independence, and
8 ensure stability and security;

9 (2) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United
10 States to support the sovereignty, independence, and
11 territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and
12 the inviolability of its borders by other nation states;

13 (3) supports and encourages increased activity
14 related to the Strategic Dialogue as a means to
15 strengthen relations between the Republic of
16 Moldova and the United States and enhance the
17 democratic, economic, rule of law, and security re-
18 forms already being undertaken by the Republic of
19 Moldova;

1 (4) supports the Joint Commercial Commission
2 (JCC) between the United States and the Republic
3 of Moldova to strengthen the bilateral trade and in-
4 vestment relationship between the two nations and
5 improve Moldova's investment climate;

6 (5) supports the new Moldovan Government's
7 anticorruption and government reform efforts that
8 will enhance the work of the JCC;

9 (6) encourages the United States Government
10 to engage at a leadership level to enhance United
11 States partnerships with the Moldovan Government
12 and civil society organizations;

13 (7) urges the United States Government and
14 European Union and other transatlantic partners to
15 increase cooperation, coordination, and support for
16 the Republic of Moldova for democratic trans-
17 formation, economic and energy independence and
18 security, and further integration;

19 (8) encourages the State Department, United
20 States Agency for International Development, the
21 Development Finance Corporation, the Department
22 of Energy, and the United States Trade Representa-
23 tive to increase and focus assistance on justice sector
24 reform, strengthening democratic institutions, pro-
25 moting an open and transparent government, com-

1 bating COVID–19, fostering indigenous independent
2 media and an open information environment, in-
3 creasing domestic energy development, diversifica-
4 tion of energy supplies and energy efficiency, im-
5 proving transport and communication infrastructure,
6 as well as the promotion of trade and investment op-
7 portunities, along with inclusive economic growth fo-
8 cusing on the rural areas beyond the capital;

9 (9) recognizes the historic opportunity for the
10 Republic of Moldova to continue efforts to imple-
11 ment crucial governance and economic reforms, in-
12 cluding increasing the capacity and independence of
13 democratic institutions, combating corruption, and
14 maintaining open space for civil society engagement;

15 (10) reaffirms the importance of free, fair, and
16 transparent elections in Moldova;

17 (11) encourages the President to expedite the
18 implementation of Public Law 113–96, especially for
19 populations in Ukraine and Moldova;

20 (12) affirms the Republic of Moldova’s sov-
21 ereign right to determine its own partnerships free
22 of external coercion and pressure, and affirms
23 Moldova’s right to associate with the European
24 Union or any regional organization;

1 (13) calls upon the Kremlin to fulfill its com-
2 mitments made at the Organization for Security and
3 Co-operation in Europe's Istanbul summit in 1999
4 and to withdraw its military forces and munitions
5 from within the internationally recognized territory
6 of the Republic of Moldova;

7 (14) calls upon the Kremlin to refrain from eco-
8 nomic threats, its disinformation campaign against
9 western democracies, and pressure against Moldova
10 and to cease any and all actions that support sepa-
11 ratist movements within the territory of Moldova;

12 (15) supports a results-oriented 5+2 process as
13 the only channel for resolving the Transnistria con-
14 flict;

15 (16) supports and encourages efforts to resume
16 negotiations and resolve the Transnistria issue
17 through a comprehensive political settlement that af-
18 firms Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity,
19 while providing a special status for the
20 Transnistrian region within Moldova;

21 (17) affirms that lasting stability and security
22 in Moldova is a key priority for the United States
23 and that these can only be achieved if the territorial
24 integrity and sovereignty of Moldova and all Euro-
25 pean countries are respected; and

1 (18) celebrates the contributions that
2 Moldovans and Moldovan Americans have made in
3 the United States.