

**RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE BAKER ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES SEEKING TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, more than two million people, primarily women and children, have been forced to flee their homes in Ukraine since the commencement of the Russian army's unprovoked invasion of their country on February 24, 2022; AND

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has estimated that more than four million people will likely be displaced from their homes in Ukraine due to the continuing armed conflict; AND

**WHEREAS**, Russia's actions against a sovereign nation violate international accords and are leading to immense pain and suffering for the citizens of Ukraine, with reports of increasing military strikes by Russian forces on civilian infrastructure and hospitals in recent days, and a documented lack of access to basic necessities within certain areas of Ukraine; AND

**WHEREAS**, the United States has responded to this growing humanitarian crisis by imposing economic sanctions on Russia, authorizing \$107 million in humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees and civilians, and extending the opportunity for Temporary Protection Status to the estimated 34,000 Ukrainians living in the United States as of March 1, 2022, which will allow them to live and work here for the next 18 months; AND

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2022, the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously engrossed an FY22 supplemental spending plan that includes \$10 million to assist with the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees and immigrants; AND

**WHEREAS**, additional measures are needed to show that our nation stands in solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine, and is prepared to offer them refuge in their time of need;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts House of Representatives hereby calls upon the Federal government and the Baker Administration to immediately provide for expedited consideration for Ukrainian refugees seeking to enter the United States and Massachusetts, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the White House, Congress and Governor Baker.