

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 749

Supporting 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the independent Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, highlighting their assistance to Ukraine, and supporting continued democratic resiliency.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the independent Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, highlighting their assistance to Ukraine, and supporting continued democratic resiliency.

Whereas the United States has been enriched by the Czechs, Slovaks, and others who emigrated to the United States from the territories of what are today the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, and continues to benefit from the strong ties between and among the citizens of our countries;

Whereas Slovaks and Czechs in the United States called for a Czechoslovak state to be established in the 1915 Cleveland Agreement and the 1918 Pittsburgh Agreement;

Whereas the United States profoundly contributed to the founding of an independent Czech-Slovak state when, on January 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson called for the free “autonomous development” of the peoples of Austria-Hungary in the “Fourteen Points” address to a joint session of Congress;

Whereas the people of the present-day Czech Republic and the people of the present-day Slovak Republic proclaimed independence on October 28, 1918, and October 30, 1918, respectively, forming the common state of the Republic of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas, on November 12, 1918, the United States and an independent Czechoslovakia established formal diplomatic relations;

Whereas Czechoslovakia maintained its democracy throughout the interwar period until the Nazi invasion in 1938;

Whereas, in February 1948, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia seized power from the postwar democratically elected Government of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas, on August 20, 1968, 20 Soviet-led Warsaw Pact military divisions invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the “Prague Spring”, a period of greater political and economic liberty that followed the appointment of Alexander Dubček as First Secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party;

Whereas the independent civic initiative Charter 77 was established in 1977 and called on the Czechoslovak Government to fulfill its human rights commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, and many of its members played decisive roles in the Velvet Revolution;

Whereas, in the nonviolent Velvet Revolution of November 1989, the peoples of both nations overthrew 40 years of authoritarian communist rule and ended two decades of Soviet occupation;

Whereas, on February 21, 1990, Czechoslovak President Václav Havel delivered his historic address before a joint session of Congress saying, in part, that Czechoslovakia is a country “that has set out on the road to democracy, a country where there is complete freedom of speech, which is getting ready for free elections and which wants to create a prosperous market economy and its own foreign policy”;

Whereas, on January 1, 1993, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic were formally created as independent states after a peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, with the robust support of the United States, joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on March 12, 1999, and March 29, 2004, respectively, and have made significant contributions to collective defense and the operations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as well as international coalitions led by the United States around the world;

Whereas the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic continue to demonstrate their strong commitment to advancing democratic values, peace, and security through their membership in the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other international organizations;

Whereas the peoples of the United States, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic have forged a special rela-

tionship based on their shared historic ties, mutual respect, close cooperation, and the shared values of democracy, the rule of law, economic liberty, and individual rights and responsibility;

Whereas vibrant Czech and Slovak diasporas have positively contributed to society in the United States;

Whereas the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic celebrate the 30th anniversary of the National Guard State Partnership Program with the Texas, Nebraska, and Indiana National Guards, respectively, which has contributed to military readiness and interoperability between the United States and both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic;

Whereas the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic have completed significant democratic reforms enabling political systems and societies which respect the rule of law, freedom of speech and assembly, free and fair elections, and other democratic values; and

Whereas the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic have shown unity in their support for Ukraine's fight against Russia's unjust and illegal war of aggression, and both countries have contributed significant military, humanitarian, and economic assistance to Ukraine in support of a free and democratic Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2               (1) supports a democratic and independent
- 3       Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, both of whom,
- 4       30 years ago, emerged from decades of communist
- 5       rule through the peaceful, nonviolent Velvet Revolu-

1       tion to affirm their human rights and democratic as-  
2       pirations;

3           (2) recognizes actions of the people of the  
4       Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic for over-  
5       throwing totalitarian communist rule in 1989 by  
6       waging a peaceful, nonviolent Velvet Revolution to  
7       affirm human rights and democratic aspirations;

8           (3) celebrates the lasting contributions of the  
9       peoples of Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic  
10      to science, the arts, culture, music, literature, poli-  
11      tics, trade, and international affairs;

12          (4) applauds the achievements of the Czech Re-  
13      public and the Slovak Republic in building free,  
14      open, democratic, and prosperous societies over the  
15      past 30 years;

16          (5) expresses strong support of the Czech Re-  
17      public and Slovak Republic's role in the North At-  
18      lantic Treaty Organization alliance and calls on both  
19      countries to continue their efforts to meet their 2  
20      percent defense commitment and recognizes the  
21      Czech Republic and Slovak Republic as strong North  
22      Atlantic Treaty Organization partners on the alli-  
23      ance's eastern flank;

24          (6) recognizes the efforts of the Czech Republic  
25      and the Slovak Republic to stand with the people of

1 Ukraine in their fight for freedom against illegal  
2 Russian aggression and provide significant military,  
3 humanitarian, and economic support to Ukraine;

4 (7) recognizes the Czech Republic and Slovak  
5 Republic for their constitutions within the European  
6 Union;

7 (8) reaffirms United States support for the  
8 freedom, human rights, democracy, sovereignty, ter-  
9 ritorial integrity, and prosperity of the Czech Repub-  
10 lic and the Slovak Republic;

11 (9) supports municipal-level cooperation includ-  
12 ing through organizations like the Pact of Free Cit-  
13 ies, which highlights the importance of cities in pro-  
14 tecting and promoting democratic values, sharing  
15 best practices, and finding practical solutions to best  
16 serve citizens;

17 (10) supports increased cooperation through the  
18 United States-Czech Strategic Dialogue and the  
19 United States-Slovak Strategic Dialogue to address  
20 common threats and challenges including in the de-  
21 fense and energy sectors, climate change, regional  
22 security, cyber security, and resilience to  
23 disinformation;

24 (11) supports modernization of the Czech and  
25 Slovak Armed Forces in light of Russia's illegal ag-

1       gression in Ukraine and increased emerging threats  
2       in the region;

3               (12) commends the Czech Republic’s and Slo-  
4       vak Republic’s strong support of democratic part-  
5       ners in the face of attempted Chinese malign influ-  
6       ence in Europe and ongoing hostile behavior by the  
7       People’s Republic of China; and

8               (13) reaffirms the United States commitment  
9       to strengthening and supporting freedom of the  
10      press, civil society, and rule of law in Central Eu-  
11      rope.

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