



COUNCIL 65 RETIREES CHAPTER
"WE MAY NOT BE WORKING, BUT WE STILL MAKE A
DIFFERENCE"

**STANDING IN SUPPORT WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AND SEELING DIVESTITURE OF MINNESOTA
FUNDS IN RUSSIA**

Whereas:

Over thirty years ago Ukraine declared itself an independent and sovereign nation, free from the former Soviet Union. In a referendum in 1991, over 90 percent of Ukrainian voters supported independence from the Soviets, including 56 percent of the voters in Crimea; and

Whereas:

Since Ukrainian independence, Russia has sought to undermine Ukraine's fledgling democracy in violation of international resolutions and norms. Russia's invasion of Crimea and installation of a puppet government in 2014 are significant examples of Russia's reprehensible behavior towards Ukraine; and

Whereas:

Now, Putin has violently attacked the people of Ukraine, its democracy, and its territorial integrity. Putin, in the name of Russia, has embarked on a slaughter of civilians that can be characterized as a genocide; and

Whereas:

Ukrainians have fought back valiantly. The courage and determination of ordinary citizens has been an inspiring example to the rest of the world. In the face of brutality and destruction, the people of Ukraine have stood up to defend their freedoms and their nation; and

Whereas:

Led by the United States and our allies, strong economic sanctions imposed on Russia and Putin personally will take a toll. While we have admiration for Russians who are bravely defying their president, it is unfortunate that ordinary Russian citizens will suffer the consequences of the maniacal behavior of their leader; and

Whereas:

Our collective admiration for Ukrainian's strong will to defend themselves and their democracy, and our condemnation of Putin's aggression compel AFSCME and our members to take action to support the people of Ukraine.

Therefore, be it resolved:

The members of AFSCME Council 65 Retiree Chapter supports continuing economic sanctions against Putin, the Russian ruling class, and the Russian nation to ensure they face accountability for the evil and immoral war Putin is waging; and

Be it further resolved:

The members of AFSCME Council 65 Retiree Chapter supports the prudent and expedient divestment of public funds including pension funds from investment ties to Russia. We call upon the Minnesota State Board of Investment to divest the estimated \$53 million dollars as quickly as possible to assure that no assets of Minnesotans will allow Putin and Russia to continue this unwarranted and criminal assault on Ukraine and its people; and

Be it finally resolved:

AFSMCE Council 65 Retiree Chapter fully supports all efforts by the United States and the world community to provide sufficient humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people and refugees and equip Ukraine with the tools necessary to defend their nation from Putin's onslaught.

Adopted by unanimous vote:

AFSCME Council 65 Retiree Chapter

March 14, 2022

Submitted by,

Steve Giorgi
President AFSCME Co 65 Retiree Chapter