

  
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. RES. 552**

Calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence  
or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEVENS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESOLUTION**

Calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to  
provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul  
Whelan.

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of  
Novi, Michigan, and is a United States Marine Corps vet-  
eran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of  
a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul  
Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December  
28, 2018, and charged him with alleged espionage;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and continues to be held there more than 5 months after his arrest;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court extended Paul Whelan's pretrial detention for 3 months on February 22, 2019, and again for an additional 3 months on May 24, 2019, without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas officials from the United States Embassy in Moscow have routinely had their topics of discussion with Paul Whelan severely limited by the Federal Security Service;

Whereas even Paul Whelan's Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas the United States Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now."; and

Whereas Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1           (1) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-  
2           eration to present credible evidence on the allega-  
3           tions against Paul Whelan or immediately release  
4           him from detention;

5           (2) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-  
6           eration to provide unrestricted consular access to  
7           Paul Whelan while he remains in detention;

8           (3) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-  
9           eration to ensure Paul Whelan is afforded due proc-  
10          ess and universally recognized human rights;

11          (4) encourages the President and the Depart-  
12          ment of State to continue to press the Government  
13          of the Russian Federation at every opportunity and  
14          urge the Russian Government to guarantee a fair  
15          and transparent judicial process without undue delay  
16          in accordance with its international legal obligation;  
17          and

18          (5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul  
19          Whelan and expresses hope that their ordeal can  
20          soon be brought to an end.