



To: Governor Gavin Newsom  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

I write to you on behalf of the 81% of Americans who firmly stand with Ukraine. This overwhelming majority crosses political boundaries, presenting minimal risk to any elected leader who chooses to echo the convictions of their constituents. In the face of this unjust and genocidal invasion, it is imperative that our leaders publicly voice their unwavering support for Ukraine—an expression that resonates with core American values of freedom, justice, and compassion.

California and New York host the largest populations of Ukrainian and Russian immigrants in the United States. Specifically, California is home to 112,000 Ukrainian and 166,222 Russian immigrants, while New York hosts 148,000 Ukrainian and 600,000 Russian immigrants. As two of the nation's most prominent state leaders, you and Governor Kathy Hochul are uniquely positioned, both in responsibility and credibility, to champion the voices of these immigrant communities—and, by extension, the 81% of Americans who support Ukraine.

We acknowledge the genuine concerns regarding potential repercussions faced by lawmakers and citizens alike. Questions naturally arise: "If I speak out, do I invite retaliation?"; "If I remain silent, am I complicit?"; "Is there a safer way to raise my voice?"; and importantly, "How can I protect those who are especially vulnerable, including immigrants?" These valid concerns deserve thoughtful discussion, yet they cannot justify inaction. To remain passive would mean abandoning America's historic role as a beacon of freedom and justice.

Governor Newsom, your public support for Ukraine has been steadfast and deeply appreciated. On behalf of "Yolo for Ukraine," a grassroots community organization of Yolo County residents, we respectfully urge you to amplify your leadership and lend your voice once more on behalf of the overwhelming majority of Americans standing with Ukraine. We are sending similar messages to other lawmakers and advocates who have already voiced their solidarity. We need your leadership now more than ever. Should you choose to speak at the Capitol in Sacramento, our local Ukrainian organizations stand ready to coordinate and support a rally, and we are confident that many other leaders and advocates will join you.

Thank you for your unwavering leadership and commitment to justice.

With deep gratitude and respect,

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