



To: Senator Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

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 a distinguished Senator from California and the son of Mexican immigrants—a community that, like many immigrant communities, understands vulnerability and the courage required to pursue justice and opportunity—you are uniquely positioned to champion these voices and stand firmly with the 81% of Americans supporting 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.

Senator Padilla, your leadership on behalf of vulnerable communities has been both notable and appreciated. On behalf of “Yolo for Ukraine,” a grassroots community organization of Yolo County residents, we respectfully urge you to lend your powerful voice once more in solidarity with the overwhelming majority of Americans standing with Ukraine. We are reaching out similarly to other lawmakers and advocates who have expressed their support. Your leadership is critically important—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,
