

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Russia's invasion of Ukraine enters its seventh week after Ukraine's armed forces successfully repelled the initial Russian campaign targeting Kyiv with the goal of overthrowing President Zelenskyy's government. Recent reports of Russian Federation troops repositioning to the Donbas indicate this conflict is not over and there will likely be much more fighting in the future, which will require our continued support to the Ukrainian armed forces. In order to reinforce Ukraine's battlefield victories and help it decisively defeat the Russian aggressors we need to focus on improving how we synchronize our whole of government approach to arming Ukraine. This effort requires one individual to coordinate our efforts and we urge you to immediately appoint a Ukraine Security Assistance Coordinator for this purpose.

Even after their initial defeat, Russia's ongoing military operations are an urgent call to re-assess how the United States can quickly and creatively provide Ukraine with the defense articles it needs to defend itself. The Ukraine Security Assistance Coordinator's primary mission would be to lead the interagency effort in assessing Ukraine's defense needs while de-conflicting overlapping areas of jurisdiction between the Department of State and the Department of Defense. This person would also serve as the chief liaison between the United States Government and our allies and partners abroad in matters relating to the transfer of existing stocks and assessment of partner capabilities, such as aircraft, heavy tanks, and sophisticated weapons that could be made available to Ukraine.

Additionally, this coordinator would be able to serve as a liaison to our domestic industry partners that are being called on to not only ensure the steady flow of defense articles to Ukraine but also to replenish United States and allied stockpiles. Finally, the Ukraine Security Assistance Coordinator would develop and execute a whole of government response regarding the capability and capacity requirements of the armed forces of Ukraine, including any necessary updates to the resource plan for security assistance as required in Section 1236 of the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 116-283).

We commend your administration thus far in providing historic levels of support to Ukraine and working to ensure that these needs are met promptly. We also recognize that more can be done, and appointing a Ukraine Security Assistance Coordinator would streamline the overall effort while increasing transparency. It is imperative that we continue to provide our Ukrainian partners with the defense materiel they need to successfully defend their freedom and their homeland from Russia's invasion.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to continued engagement to ensure Ukraine has the tools and resources to win this war decisively.


Sincerely,



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator



Roger F. Wicker
U.S. Senator



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator