

*Administration of Barack Obama, 2014*

**Statement on Signing the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014**

*December 18, 2014*

Today I have signed H.R. 5859, the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, into law. Signing this legislation does not signal a change in the administration's sanctions policy, which we have carefully calibrated in accordance with developments on the ground and coordinated with our allies and partners. At this time, the administration does not intend to impose sanctions under this law, but the Act gives the administration additional authorities that could be utilized if circumstances warranted.

My administration will continue to work closely with allies and partners in Europe and internationally to respond to developments in Ukraine and will continue to review and calibrate our sanctions to respond to Russia's actions. We again call on Russia to end its occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, cease support to separatists in eastern Ukraine, and implement the obligations it signed up to under the Minsk agreements.

As I have said many times, our goal is to promote a diplomatic solution that provides a lasting resolution to the conflict and helps to promote growth and stability in Ukraine and regionally, including in Russia. In this context, we continue to call on Russia's leadership to implement the Minsk agreements and to reach a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflict which respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We remain prepared to roll back sanctions should Russia take the necessary steps.

NOTE: H.R. 5859, approved December 18, was assigned Public Law No. 113–272.

*Categories:* Bill Signings and Vetoes : Ukraine Freedom Support Act, signing statement.

*Subjects:* Legislation, enacted : Ukraine Freedom Support Act; Russia : International and U.S. sanctions; Russia : Relations with Ukraine; Ukraine : Political unrest and violence; Ukraine : Russia, role.

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