



Slotkin Statement Following Meetings with Zelenskyy in Ukraine

The Congresswoman traveled to Kyiv this weekend with a bipartisan Congressional Delegation for meetings with President Zelenskyy and other senior Ukrainian officials

This weekend, U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (MI-08) visited Ukraine as part of a bipartisan Congressional Delegation (CODEL) through the House Armed Services Committee (HASC). Slotkin – the first member of the Michigan Congressional Delegation to travel to Ukraine since the war began – met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other senior Ukrainian military and security officials.

Other members of the delegation included Armed Services Committee Chair Adam Smith (WA-09), as well as Reps. Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11), Mike Quigley (IL-05) and Michael Waltz (FL-06). Following meetings in Kyiv, Slotkin released the following statement:

“Just a few days ago, I listened to Ukrainian First Lady Olena Zelenska as she made an emotional plea to the U.S. Congress to continue to help her country. This weekend, I had the chance to travel to Ukraine in a bipartisan delegation from the Armed Services Committee to reiterate to President Zelenskyy, his Defense Minister, Members of Parliament and others that the U.S., our allies, and the American people stand firmly with Ukraine.

“During the trip, we saw firsthand what the Ukrainians can do with the weapons and training the U.S. is providing. We visited Irpin, the last town before Kyiv where Ukrainian soldiers held the Russians off, as well as Bucha, where we learned more about the atrocities that have been carried out by the Russians over the last 5 months. All of these places were key targets for the Russians when they aimed to take Kyiv, and it was only through the sheer will of the Ukrainian people, and support from the outside world, that the Russian attack was repelled. It was incredibly moving to see that kind of determination in the name of patriotism.

“Michigan has a special connection to Ukraine, partly because of the large population of Ukrainian Michiganders, and also because we make some of the critical equipment that is now supporting their efforts against Putin’s regime – things like the engines and tracks for armored personnel carriers (APCs). Michigan’s official partner nation is Latvia, where we teach how to use the long-range HIMARS system that Ukrainians say has made such a difference against the Russians. The expedited delivery of the HIMARS and so many other weapons was facilitated by the Ukraine Lend-Lease Act that was signed into law on May 9 – that’s one of the reasons why I was determined to see these weapons in action.

“Given that, I presented the President and other senior leaders challenge coins from the 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment of the Michigan National Guard – a HIMARS unit specializing in this long-range weapons system. I also handed out model APCs and HIMARS as well as some chocolate covered Michigan cherries. The new U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Bridget Brink, is also a native Michigander, and it was a pleasure to meet her and discuss the situation on the ground.

“The Ukrainians are fighting for the survival of their country, and seeing their determination in-person was nothing short of awe-inspiring. I know that for some Americans and Michiganders, this conflict has started to fade into the background, but it is critical that we continue to help the Ukrainians, particularly as they move to take back parts of southern Ukraine. Whether you’re a staunch believer in preserving democracy or just want to protect the pocketbooks of the American people, ramping up our support in the near term must be a top priority for the administration, and I will be doing everything I can in Congress to make sure it is.”

Slotkin, a former senior Pentagon official and CIA officer, has introduced a suite of bipartisan legislation to address Putin’s war against Ukraine, including the [DICTATOR Act](#), to investigate whether China is helping Russia evade U.S. sanctions, as well as the [American Energy for Europe Act](#), which would leverage American manufacturing to help wean our European allies off Russian energy resources. Slotkin also led the [Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act](#), which was [signed into law](#) by President Biden in May and is helping to expedite shipments of weapons from the United States to Ukraine.