



April 12, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

230 South Dearborn Street Suite 3892  
Chicago, IL 60604

## Letter of Concern about Appointment to the National Security Council

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Illinois Division, representing hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian-Americans in the State of Illinois, we write this letter to express our alarm about the possible appointment by President Biden of Matthew Rojansky to the position of Russia director on the National Security Council.

<https://www.axios.com/biden-national-security-council-russia-director-15d02b7f-f4ca-4386-93a7-893c06947ea3.html>

The appointment of Mathew Rojansky as Russia director on the National Security Council would send the wrong signal to Russia, Ukraine, and the world. This is a major negative development and a source of much anxiety for Ukrainians, Eastern Europeans, and Balts, and also for Americans who are legitimately concerned about the Russian influence in the US.

Dr. Rojansky's work has drawn valid criticism. See the attachment and second page for examples of some of these serious concerns. We support peaceful coexistence, but the question is at what price and to what extent do American interests need to be compromised. Rojansky's statement in a National Interest op-ed, "Peaceful coexistence remains an imperative, no matter how unsavory Putin's regime might be," is reminiscent of appeasement that led to disaster in our past.

We recommend that before making the appointment of Dr. Matthew Rojansky to the NSC, there should be careful examination of the consequences to policies that may be influenced because of overt or covert financial support from Russia and that his appointment be reassessed. As such, we recommend that Dr. Rojansky not be appointed to the NSC position. Dr. Rojansky's expertise is in advising without facing consequences of his decisions. His resume does not indicate any military expertise or background, or experience in government, in particular intelligence or security, with no line expertise in foreign service.

At its core, there is the perception that for Dr. Rojansky, Ukraine is expendable when standing in the way of closer US-Russian relations. Although this appointment does not require Congressional confirmation, we request that you convey our deep concern and recommendations to the White House.

Respectfully,

Dan I. Diaczun  
President

Marta Farion  
Vice President

Pavlo T. Bandriwsky  
Vice President

Maria Korkatsch Groszko, PhD  
Vice President

**Attachments**