

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1132

Calling for the immediate release of Brittney Griner, a citizen of the United States, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in February 2022.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2022

Mr. STANTON (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. ALLRED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling for the immediate release of Brittney Griner, a citizen of the United States, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in February 2022.

Whereas United States citizen Brittney Griner is a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) player;

Whereas Brittney Griner and her wife, Cherelle, are residents of Phoenix, Arizona, and are well-respected leaders in the community;

Whereas Brittney Griner was raised in Houston, Texas, and many of her family members live in Texas;

Whereas after a prolific collegiate career at her alma mater, Baylor University, Brittney Griner was the first overall

pick in the 2013 WNBA by the Phoenix Mercury and has played her entire WNBA career with the team;

Whereas during her WNBA career, Brittney Griner has been named the WNBA Defensive Player of the Year twice and a WNBA All-Star seven times;

Whereas Brittney Griner has represented the United States on the women's basketball team twice and earned two Olympic Gold Medals;

Whereas Brittney Griner is also an international figure and has played for the Russian women's professional basketball team, UMMC Ekaterinburg, for the past seven years during the WNBA off-season;

Whereas Brittney Griner is a renowned leader in the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas Brittney Griner has made a difference in the lives of many Arizonans, including through her annual "BG's Heart and Sole Shoe Drive" to provide shoes to those experiencing homelessness in the Phoenix community;

Whereas Brittney Griner's efforts have provided shoes to nearly 2,000 Phoenix-area residents in need;

Whereas the Phoenix Mercury and the Phoenix Rescue Mission are continuing this important effort in Brittney Griner's absence;

Whereas Brittney Griner was presumably detained by Russian authorities at Sheremetyevo Alexander S. Pushkin International Airport in Khimki, Russia, on February 17, 2022, accused of carrying vape cartridges with hashish oil;

Whereas Russian authorities opened a criminal case against Brittney Griner regarding the alleged transportation of drugs, which can carry a sentence of up to 10 years;

Whereas, on March 17, 2022, a Russian court denied a request for bail and for house arrest, and has since extended Brittney Griner’s detention until June 18, 2022; and

Whereas the Department of State has determined that Brittney Griner is “wrongfully detained”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on the Government of the Russian
3 Federation to immediately release Brittney Griner;

4 (2) urges the United States, in all interactions
5 with the Government of the Russian Federation, to
6 raise the case of Brittney Griner and to press for
7 her release;

8 (3) expresses continued support for Paul
9 Whelan and all prisoners unjustly imprisoned in the
10 Russian Federation;

11 (4) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
12 eration to provide consular access to Brittney Griner
13 while she remains in detention;

14 (5) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
15 eration to respect the human rights of Brittney
16 Griner; and

- 1 (6) expresses support to the family of Brittney
- 2 Griner and a commitment to bringing her home.

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