

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-17

RE: C.R. NO. 21-46/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FSM AND THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE MUTUAL WAIVER OF VISA  
REQUIREMENTS.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twenty First Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Regular Session, 2019

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R.  
No. 21-46 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE MUTUAL WAIVER  
OF VISA REQUIREMENTS (THE AGREEMENT).",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in its  
title.

Your Committee understands the need for increased cooperation  
and relations with other nations, and in particular the Russian  
Federation. It would be beneficial to ease the restrictions on  
short term travel to the Russian Federation so our citizens can  
travel for short term training, tourism, medical tourism,  
conference and diplomatic travel. Short term visa waiver would  
increase the tourism from Russia, and it is hoped, increase  
travel to explore business investment opportunities in the  
Federated States of Micronesia.

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For several years, the National Government negotiated with the Russian Federation, and reached an agreement to grant visa-free privileges for the citizens of the other nation up to 30 days. This Agreement was signed on September 21, 2017, by the parties in New York. This Agreement and the proposed resolution were transmitted by the President this September 2019 regular session of Congress for action.

Your Committee has been briefed on several occasions on the progress of this Agreement. It believes that there have been unintended delays in the transmission of this Agreement and resolution to the Congress, and that action should be taken on this issue as soon as possible.

Your Committee also defers to the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs as to the decision to enter into the visa-free Agreement with the Russian Federation. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the resolution ratifying this Agreement should be adopted, and so recommends the same.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 21-46, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir, member

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Emond B. Moses  
Emond B. Moses, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth  
Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Robson U. Rolomow  
Robson U. Romolow, member