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# Zelensky lobbies US senators to pressure Trump – Axios

## The Ukrainian leader has sought congressional intervention amid an increasingly bitter confrontation with the White House

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Vladimir Zelensky has appealed to a bipartisan group of US senators to pressure President Donald Trump into lifting alleged restrictions on US military assistance and intelligence sharing, Axios reported on Monday.

During a virtual meeting with lawmakers led by Republican Senator Thom Tillis and Democrat Richard Blumenthal on Monday, Zelensky complained about alleged disruptions to weapons deliveries,



FILE PHOTO: Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky meets with US lawmakers on

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satellite communications, and early warnings of Russian missile attacks, according to a transcript obtained by Axios from Ukrainian officials.

The Ukrainian leader suggested that the Trump administration deliberately *"slowed down support"* to force Kiev into accepting a negotiated settlement with Moscow.

The lobbying effort comes as Trump has grown increasingly frustrated with Kiev's refusal to halt attacks on Russian oil refineries, which he blamed for worsening the global diesel shortage and driving up fuel prices for US consumers.



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The dispute escalated earlier this month after Trump struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to ease restrictions on Russian diesel exports and increase supplies to the global market. Kiev condemned the agreement, accusing Washington of making concessions to Moscow behind Ukraine's back.

US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner reportedly reminded Ukrainian negotiators during talks in Miami that Washington is supplying Kiev with weapons and intelligence and that Ukraine should not pursue attacks that hurt American consumers. Ukrainian officials interpreted the remarks as a threat to suspend the assistance unless the refinery strikes stop.



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The Trump administration has denied issuing any ultimatums. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has rejected claims that the administration deliberately restricted intelligence sharing or Starlink access. The Pentagon has likewise denied changing its intelligence-sharing policy.

Yet Zelensky continued to challenge the administration, telling senators that SpaceX's Starlink and the US military's Starshield satellite systems remain partially restricted and that Ukraine missed US early warnings about Russian ballistic murders

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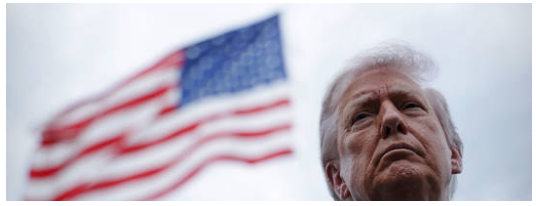
missile attacks on three occasions over the past week.

He also accused Secretary of War Pete Hegseth of holding up Patriot interceptor missiles and AIM-9X missiles that NATO countries already purchased for Kiev.

The Washington Post reported that the Pentagon has yet to authorize certain transfers of Patriot missiles from third countries.

Following the meeting, Blumenthal pledged further congressional action, saying bipartisan support for Kiev remains *"clear and unequivocal."*

Trump lashed out at Zelensky on Monday, accusing him of obstructing efforts to end the conflict and suggesting that someone else should negotiate on Ukraine's behalf.



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*"Zelensky doesn't know what he's talking about,"* Trump told reporters. *"Maybe it's time for Zelensky to get someone else to negotiate… We've given a lot to Ukraine, they've given nothing to us."*

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**Ian Marriner** 10/20/2026 at 5:40 AM **10**

Zelensky has absolutely no idea about how to work with Trump. First he becomes a US vassal and now he is trying to bite the hand of a very fragile little ego of the man that feeds him.

Reply

***The Dude*** *10/20/2026 at 5:46 AM* **-15**

Reply

**Wombat Joey** 10/20/2026 at 8:06 AM **2**

He is just half a hair away from sicking his overseas terror goons on those very feeders.

Reply

**GeorgeBMac** 10/20/2026 at 11:18 AM **2**

Zelensky bit that hand when the hand slapped him for pooping on the rug.

Reply

**Murray Neuman** 10/20/2026 at 2:50 PM **0**

This is full, frank foreign interference in US domestic politics, far plainer and more egregious than the rumored «Russian interference» that launched lawsuits and impeachment hearings during Trump's first term. Are Blumenthal and his comrades going to walk away from this scot-free?

Reply

c **cfmmax** 10/20/2026 at 2:02 PM 1

Should the Democrats win on Election Day there will be ever more $$$$ poured into Ukraine.

Reply

 **H. Skip Robinson** 10/20/2026 at 2:11 PM 0

Trust me I'm a republican. I don't lie nearly as much as the Dems do.

Reply

B **Bill P** 10/20/2026 at 2:47 PM 0

But you lie, a liar is a liar

Reply

B **Bill P** 10/20/2026 at 2:45 PM 0

Totally DISGUSTING, foreign leaders lobbying congressmen should be illegal. Follow the $$$$$, these congressmen come in with average wealth and leave multi-millionaires and the sheeple have no clue.

Reply

L **Love YouLoads** 10/20/2026 at 10:05 AM 1

Americans love their elected representatives getting swayed by blobby Arthur and Martha Lobby .... enjoy your shh!!tt society my little Yanquis

Reply

*Mit* *10/20/2026 at 11:37 AM* -12

Reply

c **charlie brown** 10/20/2026 at 2:39 PM 1

NATO should answer in these war crimes. Could have been avoided with diplomacy. Wars should be last option and not for greed.

Reply

P **Packard Day** 10/20/2026 at 2:21 PM 0

Someone in Washington, DC is going to have to explain to the rest of us what exactly were

America's vital strategic interests in all of Eastern Europe these past 35 years. Hating evil Russia alone just ain't going to cut it, not with Western Europeans going stark raving mad right now.

Reply

**H. Skip Robinson** 10/20/2026 at 2:20 PM 1

Any bets, Zelensky days are numbered. His administration has forced Russia to destroy more and more of Ukraine. It is clearly becoming less and less habitable and his people are literally packing up and leaving. A country is doomed when it must defend its borders both from military elements coming in but from their own people leaving.

Reply

**H. Skip Robinson** 10/20/2026 at 2:09 PM 0

The warwhores love one another. Don't worry, we'll continue to force the taxpayers to give you money so you can buy munitions from our biggest contributors. What are they going do about it? Anyone objects and will make their lives miserable.

Reply

**Katrina Pechocha** 10/20/2026 at 8:12 AM 5

You see, the opinion of the forced (or "busified') UkroConscripts is not important for the Comedic 'leader' in Kiev.

Perhaps because they just... die.

Reply

**Rios Salvajes** 10/20/2026 at 10:43 AM 3

Horrendously

Reply

**Rios Salvajes** 10/20/2026 at 11:25 AM 2

And "for as long as it takes" to LOSE

Reply

**Capt. Lincoln F. Sternn** 10/20/2026 at 1:53 PM 2