SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Talking tough. President Biden using his first State of the Union address to condemn Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: He badly miscalculated. He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over.

GUTHRIE: The Ukrainian ambassador given a standing ovation in the chamber, a remarkable bipartisan show of support.

BIDEN: Thank you.

GUTHRIE: But how far are the U.S. and its allies willing to go to stop Putin's siege? Our live interview with Vice President Kamala Harris just ahead.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: State of the Union]

GUTHRIE: About an hour long, the President topping his speech focusing on the crisis unfolding in Ukraine and warning Vladimir Putin that he, “has no idea what's coming.” He also looked to revive the administration's stalled domestic agenda here at home.

PETER ALEXANDER: Savannah, good morning. This was a tale of two speeches last night. First, the state of the world or perhaps more specifically the state of Ukraine, stacked on top of a more traditional State of the Union address. President Biden slamming Vladimir Putin’s war,
arguing the Russian president is now more isolated from the world than ever and that the U.S. and its allies are inflicting pain on Moscow before looking to revive his stalled agenda here at home. Entering a chamber filled with yellow and blue, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, president Biden forcefully condemning Vladimir Putin —

BIDEN: He has no idea what's coming.

ALEXANDER: — denouncing the Russian invasion as premeditated, totally unprovoked and a mistake of historic proportions.

BIDEN: He badly miscalculated. He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead, we met with a wall — a wall of strength he never anticipated or imagined: He met the Ukrainian people.

ALEXANDER: Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. receiving a standing ovation and an embrace from First Lady Jill Biden. While the president emphasized U.S. troops would not fight in Ukraine, he delivered this emphatic warning to Russia.

BIDEN: The United States and our allies will defy every inch of territory that is NATO territory with the full force of our collective power, every single inch.

ALEXANDER: With Russia already facing crippling economic sanctions, the President announcing a new penalty to further isolate Moscow, barring all Russian flights from U.S. airspace. The President also suggesting America is finally emerging from the pandemic.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Biden Talks COVID And Pushes Domestic Agenda]

BIDEN: Stop looking at COVID as a partisan dividing line. See it for what it is. A God awful disease.

ALEXANDER: And despite a fast-growing economy, President Biden acknowledging too many people are still feeling the pain of rising prices.

BIDEN: Inflation is robbing them of gains they thought otherwise they would be able to feel. I get it.

ALEXANDER: In one surprising moment of unity, the President tried to move his party to the middle with a message on crime that even got some Republicans on their feet.

BIDEN: [T]he answer is not to defund the police.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right!

BIDEN: It's to fund the police.
ALEXANDER: Throughout his speech, the president was repeatedly heckled by a pair of far right Republicans, Marjorie Taylor Greene and Lauren Boebert, including when he invoked the memory of his last son.

BIDEN: I know —

CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN BOEBERT (R-CO): 13 of them.

[CROWD BOOS]

BIDEN: — one of those — one of those soldiers was my son, Major Beau Biden.

ALEXANDER: Boebert yelling, “13 of them,” an apparent reference to the number of service members killed during the U.S.’s chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. The President’s speech immediately panned by Iowa’s governor, Kim Reynolds, who gave the Republican response.

GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS (R-IA): It's time to lead, but we can't project strength abroad if we're weak at home.

ALEXANDER: In the end, President Biden praising America's resilience and resolve.

BIDEN: The state of the union is strong because you, the American people, are strong.

ALEXANDER: And here at home with COVID cases declining, the President also detailed the next phase of his pandemic response, including a new test to treat initiative designed to provide patients with new antiviral medications just as soon as they learn that they are infected. Still on Ukraine in this moment of global uncertainty, the President really looked to rally the world together in his fight against autocracy overseas, hoping that he may be also — may also be able to unite Americans behind other presidential priorities here at home. Savannah.

GUTHRIE: Alright, Peter. Thank you very much.

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8:00:32 a.m. [TEASE]
29 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: State of the Union]

GUTHRIE: Talking tough. President Biden defying Vladimir Putin and showing support for Ukraine in his first State of the Union address.

BIDEN: He badly miscalculated. He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over.
GUTHRIE: Vice President Harris speaking out live this morning on Today.

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: What history will show is that Vladimir Putin basically ended up strengthening NATO and weakening Russia.

GUTHRIE: We're live from the White House and Ukraine just ahead.

(....)

8:04:32 a.m.
1 minute and 42 seconds

GUTHRIE: Well, as mentioned, the President used his first State of the Union address last night to condemn Vladimir Putin and also try to reassure Americans about the war, the U.S. economy, and the ongoing pandemic. NBC's chief White House correspondent, weekend Today co-anchor Peter Alexander fills us in on that. Peter, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Biden Condemns Russia in State of the Union]

ALEXANDER: Savannah, good morning to morning. President Biden did forcefully slam Vladimir Putin for what he blasted as a premeditated and totally unprovoked invasion, a war that the President says has backfired on Putin and isolated him from the world like never before while, at the same time, strengthening the U.S. alliance with its NATO allies.

BIDEN: As I've made crystal clear, the United States and our allies will defend every inch of territory that is NATO territory for the full force of our collective power, every single inch.

ALEXANDER: In a room filled with yellow and blue, as you see, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, the president said Putin badly miscalculated, thinking that Ukraine and the world would simply get — get rolled here. This morning on Today, Vice President Harris acknowledged the limits, though, to how far the U.S. will go. Part of her conversation with Savannah:

HARRIS: We're not going to put U.S. troops on the ground to fight — fight Russians in Ukraine, not on the ground or in the air. However, we have been supplying Ukraine and our allies with an extraordinary amount of support that is about security assistance and military assistance.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Biden Talks COVID And Pushes Domestic Agenda]

ALEXANDER: And pres — President Biden also tried to revive his stalled domestic agenda, emphasizing his effort to lower costs with Americans facing historic inflation saying, “I get it.” He heads to Wisconsin today to try to tout his $1 trillion infrastructure law. Savannah?

GUTHRIE: Alright, Peter. Thank you very much.