

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 123

Supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 70
years of accomplishments.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 2019

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr.
JOHNSON, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which
was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and
recognizing its 70 years of accomplishments.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

3 The Senate makes the following findings:

4 (1) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
5 (NATO) was founded on April 4, 1949, to “safe-
6 guard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation
7 of [its] peoples, founded on the principles of democ-
8 racy, individual liberty and the rule of law”.

9 (2) The United States Senate approved the
10 North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on July 21, 1949,

1 and the United States Government acceded to mem-
2 bership in NATO on August 24, 1949.

3 (3) NATO is a community of democracies that
4 acts collectively to promote freedom, stability, and
5 peace around the globe.

6 (4) NATO has continued to welcome into its
7 membership those nations that have evinced a desire
8 to partake in the alliance's commitment to settle
9 international disputes peaceably, strengthen their
10 free institutions, promote conditions of stability and
11 well-being, and seek to eliminate conflict in their
12 international economic policies, and which are dedi-
13 cated to maintaining and developing their capacity
14 to resist armed attack.

15 (5) The sustained commitment of NATO to
16 mutual defense has made possible the democratic
17 and economic transformation of Central and Eastern
18 Europe.

19 (6) Lasting stability and security in Europe re-
20 quires the further military, economic, and political
21 integration of emerging democracies into existing
22 European and transatlantic structures.

23 (7) NATO serves as a force multiplier, whose
24 command structures, training institutions, and mul-
25 tilateral exercises have generated unprecedented

1 multinational contributions to United States na-
2 tional security priorities and enabled European and
3 Canadian soldiers to fight side-by-side with members
4 of the United States Armed Forces.

5 (8) The allies invoked NATO's Article 5 collec-
6 tive defense clause and offered military assistance to
7 the United States in responding to the attacks of
8 September 11, 2001.

9 (9) NATO member nations stood in support of
10 the United States after it was attacked on Sep-
11 tember 11, 2001, sending tens of thousands troops
12 to fight alongside American soldiers in Afghanistan.

13 (10) NATO is currently involved in several op-
14 erations benefiting United States national security,
15 including Operation Resolute Support in Afghani-
16 stan, NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR), Operation
17 Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean Sea (maritime
18 situational awareness, counter-terrorism at sea, and
19 support to capacity-building), the capacity-building
20 NATO Mission Iraq, support for African Union mis-
21 sions, and air policing missions in the member and
22 nonmember nations of Eastern Europe.

23 (11) NATO members have stood against Rus-
24 sian aggression in Eastern Europe, have supported
25 United States sanctions on that country and im-

1 posed their own, have responded, as noted in the
 2 NATO Brussels Summit Declaration of 2018, “to
 3 the deteriorated security environment by enhancing
 4 our deterrence and defence posture, including by a
 5 forward presence in the eastern part of the Alli-
 6 ance,” and have asserted that “there can be no re-
 7 turn to ‘business as usual’ until there is a clear, con-
 8 structive change in Russia’s actions that dem-
 9 onstrates compliance with international law and its
 10 international obligations and responsibilities”.

11 (12) The NATO Wales Summit Declaration of
 12 2014 pledged, “Allies currently meeting the NATO
 13 guideline to spend a minimum of 2% of their Gross
 14 Domestic Product (GDP) on defence will aim to con-
 15 tinue to do so . . . Allies whose current proportion
 16 of GDP spent on defence is below this level will: halt
 17 any decline in defence expenditure; aim to increase
 18 defence expenditure in real terms as GDP grows;
 19 aim to move towards the 2% guideline within a dec-
 20 ade with a view to meeting their NATO Capability
 21 Targets and filling NATO’s capability shortfalls.”.

22 (13) Twenty-two NATO nations have increased
 23 their military spending since the Wales Declaration
 24 of 2014.

1 (14) The NATO Brussels Summit Declaration
2 of 2018 stated, “We reaffirm our unwavering com-
3 mitment to all aspects of the Defence Investment
4 Pledge agreed at the 2014 Wales Summit, and to
5 submit credible national plans on its implementation,
6 including the spending guidelines for 2024, planned
7 capabilities, and contributions. Fair burden sharing
8 underpins the Alliance’s cohesion, solidarity, credi-
9 bility, and ability to fulfil our Article 3 and Article
10 5 commitments. We welcome the considerable
11 progress made since the Wales Summit with four
12 consecutive years of real growth in non-US defence
13 expenditure. All Allies have started to increase the
14 amount they spend on defence in real terms and
15 some two-thirds of Allies have national plans in
16 place to spend 2% of their Gross Domestic Product
17 on defence by 2024. More than half of Allies are
18 spending more than 20% of their defence expendi-
19 tures on major equipment, including related research
20 and development, and, according to their national
21 plans, 24 Allies will meet the 20% guideline by
22 2024. Allies are delivering more of the heavier, high-
23 end capabilities we require and are improving the
24 readiness, deployability, sustainability, and inter-
25 operability of their forces.”.

1 (15) NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg
2 has stated, “By the end of next year, NATO allies
3 will add . . . 100 billion extra U.S. dollars toward
4 defense.”.

5 (16) Allies who have recently acceded to NATO
6 are amongst the highest per capita contributors to
7 NATO missions.

8 (17) At the Bucharest Summit of the North At-
9 lantic Treaty Organization in April 2008, the Heads
10 of State and Government of the member countries of
11 NATO declared, “NATO’s ongoing enlargement
12 process has been an historic success in advancing
13 stability and cooperation and bringing us closer to
14 our common goal of a Europe whole and free, united
15 in peace, democracy and common values. NATO’s
16 door will remain open to European democracies will-
17 ing and able to assume the responsibilities and obli-
18 gations of membership, in accordance with Article
19 10 of the Washington Treaty. We reiterate that de-
20 cisions on enlargement are for NATO itself to
21 make.”.

22 (18) Vice President Mike Pence in June 2017
23 reiterated that the United States “commitment [to
24 NATO] is unwavering” and that “NATO’s open
25 door must always remain so”.

1 (19) The governments, leaders, and parliaments
 2 of Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia have
 3 ended their dispute and ratified the Prespa Agree-
 4 ment, resolving a long-standing bilateral dispute and
 5 establishing a strategic partnership between the two
 6 countries and clearing the way for North Macedo-
 7 nia’s accession to NATO.

8 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

9 The Senate—

10 (1) lauds NATO for its 70-year maintenance of
 11 the alliance and recognizes its singular contributions
 12 to maintaining the safety, security, and democratic
 13 systems of its members;

14 (2) calls on NATO member states to continue
 15 to fully meet their Wales pledges, more fully share
 16 the security burden by increasing their defense
 17 spending with a focus on meeting capabilities tar-
 18 gets, enhancing interoperability, improving readi-
 19 ness, and modernization to respond to the threats
 20 that face the alliance on each of its flanks;

21 (3) stands in robust support of those NATO
 22 members who spend two percent or more of their
 23 GDPs on defense, acknowledges the four countries
 24 that have met that goal since 2014, and strongly en-

1 courages the remainder to strive to quickly reach
2 that goal;

3 (4) affirms that the Senate stands ready to con-
4 sider, if all applicable criteria are satisfied, the Re-
5 public of North Macedonia’s application to join
6 NATO;

7 (5) backs the White House’s 2017 affirmation
8 that the United States “stand[s] firmly behind Arti-
9 cle 5” of the NATO Treaty;

10 (6) welcomes former Secretary of Defense
11 James Mattis’ efforts to encourage significant
12 NATO reforms, especially regarding modernization,
13 readiness, command structure adaptation, military
14 mobility, and improving NATO’s speed of decision-
15 making to ensure the alliance remains fit for pur-
16 pose; and

17 (7) reaffirms the commitment of the United
18 States to NATO’s mission, and its belief that NATO
19 is the most successful security alliance in our Na-
20 tion’s history and one that will continue to be a cor-
21 nerstone of United States security.

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