

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4095

To provide that the President shall attempt to establish an international arms sales code of conduct with all Wassenaar Arrangement countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. VENTO, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. OLVER, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. MILLER of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. MINGE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. NADLER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DIXON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To provide that the President shall attempt to establish an international arms sales code of conduct with all Wassenaar Arrangement countries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “International Arms
5 Sales Code of Conduct Act of 1998”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The proliferation of conventional arms and
4 conflicts around the globe are multilateral problems.
5 The only way to effectively prevent rogue nations
6 from acquiring conventional weapons is through a
7 multinational “arms sales code of conduct”.

8 (2) Approximately 40,000,000 people, over 75
9 percent of whom were civilians, died as a result of
10 civil and international wars fought with conventional
11 weapons during the 45 years of the cold war, dem-
12 onstrating that conventional weapons can in fact be
13 weapons of mass destruction.

14 (3) Conflict has actually increased in the post
15 cold war era.

16 (4) It is in the national security and economic
17 interests of the United States to reduce dramatically
18 the \$840,000,000,000 that all countries spend on
19 armed forces every year, \$191,000,000,000 of which
20 is spent by developing countries, an amount equiva-
21 lent to 4 times the total bilateral and multilateral
22 foreign assistance such countries receive every year.

23 (5) The Congress has the constitutional respon-
24 sibility to participate with the executive branch in
25 decisions to provide military assistance and arms
26 transfers to a foreign government, and in the formu-

1 lation of a policy designed to reduce dramatically the
2 level of international militarization.

3 (6) A decision to provide military assistance
4 and arms transfers to a government that is undemo-
5 cratic, does not adequately protect human rights, or
6 is currently engaged in acts of armed aggression
7 should require a higher level of scrutiny than does
8 a decision to provide such assistance and arms
9 transfers to a government to which these conditions
10 do not apply.

11 **SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL ARMS SALES CODE OF CONDUCT.**

12 (a) NEGOTIATIONS.—The President shall attempt to
13 achieve the foreign policy goal of an international arms
14 sales code of conduct with all Wassenaar Arrangement
15 countries. The President shall take the necessary steps to
16 begin negotiations with all Wassenaar Arrangement coun-
17 tries within 120 days after the date of the enactment of
18 this Act. The purpose of these negotiations shall be to con-
19 clude an agreement on restricting or prohibiting arms
20 transfers to countries that—

21 (1) do not respect democratic processes and the
22 rule of law;

23 (2) do not adhere to internationally recognized
24 norms on human rights; or

25 (3) are engaged in acts of armed aggression.

1 (b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6
2 months after the commencement of the negotiations under
3 subsection (a), and not later than the end of every 6-
4 month period thereafter until an agreement described in
5 subsection (a) is concluded, the President shall report to
6 the appropriate committees of the Congress on the
7 progress made during these negotiations.

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