

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 82

Expressing the sense of the Congress on commemorating the 20th Anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's vision for protecting the United States against ballistic missile attack and commending President George W. Bush's commitment to a multi-layered ballistic missile defense system to protect the homeland of the United States from ballistic missile attack.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2003

Mr. HOSTETTLER (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. THORNBERRY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress on commemorating the 20th Anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's vision for protecting the United States against ballistic missile attack and commending President George W. Bush's commitment to a multi-layered ballistic missile defense system to protect the homeland of the United States from ballistic missile attack.

Whereas in the midst of the Cold War, the former Soviet Union began deploying a ballistic missile defense system

near Moscow in 1966, which became operational in 1968, has since evolved, and remains under the operational control of the Russian Federation today;

Whereas the United States decided not to exercise its authority under the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972 to deploy two limited anti-ballistic missile systems and instead in 1976 discontinued deployment of a single very limited ballistic missile defense system potentially capable of protecting parts of the United States from ballistic missile attack;

Whereas President Reagan challenged the concept of mutually assured destruction (MAD) as the reality of the United States' nuclear deterrent posture with the Soviet Union, and asked the people of the United States in a nationally televised speech on March 23, 1983, "What if free people could live secure in the knowledge that their security did not rest upon the threat of instant U.S. retaliation to deter a Soviet attack, that we could intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil or that of our allies?";

Whereas President Ronald Reagan delivered a vision to the people of the United States that called for a comprehensive, long-term research and development program to develop the capability to defend the United States and its interests from the threat posed by strategic ballistic missiles;

Whereas President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative led to a substantial research and development effort that greatly advanced the technologies related to and capabilities of missile defense systems;

Whereas the 106th Congress overwhelmingly passed with a bipartisan majority H.R. 4, the National Missile Defense Act of 1999, a bill to declare that it is the policy of the United States “to deploy as soon as is technologically possible an effective National Missile Defense [NMD] system capable of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack”;

Whereas on July 22, 1999, President William Jefferson Clinton signed into law H.R. 4, the National Missile Defense Act of 1999;

Whereas the United States officially withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972 on June 13, 2002, consistent with the terms in Article XV of the ABM Treaty;

Whereas the unclassified summary of a December 2001 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) entitled “Foreign Missile Developments and the Ballistic Missile Threat Through 2015 ” indicates that the United States remains subject to a grave and growing threat from ballistic missile attack;

Whereas the same National Intelligence Estimate made the key judgment that “Most Intelligence Community agencies project that before 2015 the United States most likely will face ICBM threats from North Korea and Iran, and possibly from Iraq—barring significant changes in their political orientations”; and

Whereas United States Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet testified to the Congress in February 2003 that North Korea already possesses a ballistic missile capable of reaching portions of the western continental United States: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3           (1) commemorates the 20th Anniversary of  
4       President Ronald Reagan’s speech that provided for  
5       a visionary policy of seeking a defensive capability to  
6       counter the threat posed by strategic ballistic mis-  
7       siles;

8           (2) commends President Reagan for decreasing  
9       the reliance by the United States on the threat of  
10      retaliation with offensive nuclear weapons, and in-  
11      stead increasing the contribution of defensive sys-  
12      tems to the security of the United States and its al-  
13      lies; and

14          (3) commends President George W. Bush’s  
15      commitment to a multi-layered missile defense sys-  
16      tem to protect the homeland of the United States,  
17      United States Armed Forces overseas, and friends  
18      and allies of the United States from the threat of  
19      ballistic missiles carrying conventional weapons or  
20      weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear,  
21      chemical, biological, and radiological munitions.

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