

A resolution (S. Res. 156) expressing the sense of the Senate on the 10-year anniversary of NATO Allied Command Transformation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

Whereas, on June 19, 2003, NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT), was formally established to increase military effectiveness and prepare the Alliance for future security challenges;

Whereas, on June 19, 2013, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of NATO ACT;

Whereas the security of the United States and its NATO allies have been enhanced by the establishment and continued work of NATO ACT;

Whereas, for the past 10 years, ACT has been leading NATO's military transformation, and providing relevant and timely support to NATO operations, while developing partnerships around the globe to adapt to the changing global security environment;

Whereas ACT is the only NATO headquarters in the United States, and the only permanent NATO headquarters outside of Europe;

Whereas ACT provides state of the art education, training, and application of best practices and lessons learned from past operations, and equips Alliance troops with the tools they need to win today's wars;

Whereas ACT improves NATO's defense planning and develops compatible equipment and common standards necessary to keep Alliance capabilities aligned;

Whereas NATO ACT has been integral to a NATO mission of promoting a Europe that is whole, undivided, free, and at peace;

Whereas NATO ACT strengthened the ability of NATO to perform a full range of missions throughout the world;

Whereas NATO ACT has provided crucial support and participation in the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, as NATO endeavors to help the people of Afghanistan create the conditions necessary for security and successful development and reconstruction;

Whereas ACT employs personnel from 26 of the 28 NATO member nations and six of the 41 NATO Partner nations and contributes more than \$100,000,000 annually to the local economy;

Whereas NATO has been the cornerstone of transatlantic security cooperation and an enduring instrument for promoting stability in Europe and throughout the world for over 60 years, representing the vital transatlantic bond of solidarity between the United States and Europe, as NATO nations share similar values and interests and are committed to the maintenance of democratic principles;

Whereas the Chicago Summit Communiqué affirms that all NATO members "are determined that NATO will continue to play its unique and essential role in ensuring our common defense and security" and that NATO "continues to be effective in a changing world, against new threats, with new capabilities and new partners";

Whereas, through the Alliance, the United States and Europe are effective and steadfast partners in security, and ACT is well positioned to contribute to the strength of the Alliance on both continents;

Whereas NATO ACT has done much to help NATO meet the global challenges of the 21st

century, including the threat of terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, instability caused by failed states, and threats to global energy security; and

Whereas the 10th anniversary of NATO ACT is an opportunity to enhance and more deeply entrench those principles, which continue to bind the alliance together and guide our efforts today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 10th anniversary of the establishment of NATO Allied Command Transformation (NATO ACT);

(2) recognizes NATO ACT's leading role in transforming Alliance forces and capabilities, using new concepts such as the NATO Response Force and new doctrines in order to improve the Alliance's military effectiveness;

(3) expresses appreciation for the continuing and close partnership between the United States Government and NATO to transform the Alliance;

(4) remembers the 64 years NATO has served to ensure peace, security, and stability in Europe throughout the world, and urges the United States Government to continue to seek new ways to deepen and expand its important relationships with NATO;

(5) recognizes the service of the brave men and women who have served to safeguard the freedom and security of the United States and the whole of the transatlantic alliance;

(6) honors the sacrifices of United States personnel, allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and partners in Afghanistan;

(7) recognizes the outstanding partnership between the local community in Norfolk, Virginia and NATO personnel assigned to ACT;

(8) reaffirms that NATO, through the new Strategic Concept, is committed to helping the Alliance adapt and prepare for the complex and demanding future security;

(9) urges all NATO members to take concrete steps to implement the Strategic Concept and to utilize the taskings from the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago, Illinois, to address current NATO operations, future capabilities and burden-sharing issues, and strengthen the relationship between NATO and partners around the world;

(10) calls upon the President to use the momentum of the occasion of the 10th anniversary of NATO ACT—

(A) to engage each of the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in a dialogue about the long-term health of the Alliance, and strongly encourage each of the member states to make a serious effort to protect defense budgets from further reductions, better allocate and coordinate the resources presently available, and recommit to spending at least 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) on defense; and

(B) to examine and report to Congress on recommendations that will lead to a stronger Alliance in terms of military capability and readiness across the 28 member states, with particular focus on the smaller member states; and

(11) conveys appreciation for the steadfast partnership between NATO and the United States.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 156), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 207, S. Res. 208, S. Res. 209, S. Res. 210, and S. Res. 211.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, before I note the absence of a quorum, let me express my appreciation to Senator MORAN for his patience as we go through the closing script. He will have an opportunity to speak at the conclusion of this, and I appreciate very much his courtesy in accommodating us in this way.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, 3 years ago Congress passed a massive health insurance law which didn't have a single Republican vote, and it had significant opposition by the public.

In an administration proclaiming to be the most transparent ever, this 2,700-page bill was rammed through Congress in the early morning hours on Christmas Eve. Even then-Speaker of the House Pelosi said Congress had to pass this bill so that we could find out what was in it.

Well, we did. It was passed, and the American people are not liking what they have discovered.

While the President promised the Affordable Care Act would lower health care costs and strengthen our health care system, the law, instead, is increasing health insurance premiums, slowing economic recovery, and hindering job creation. We should not allow the administration to continue to ignore this reality. We must permanently delay the Affordable Care Act.

Since its enactment in 2010, 18 components of the health care law have been changed, cancelled, or delayed. The President downplays the law's substantial defects by characterizing them as "glitches and bumps" that are to be expected. He also claims that the Affordable Care Act critics are responsible for the law's broken promises by arguing that the problem is with "folks out there who are actively working to make this law fail." Meanwhile, the Affordable Care Act is slowly unraveling.

Every day brings new information about missed deadlines, funding shortfalls, soaring health insurance premium rates, and a technical implementation that is floundering. Is it any wonder that this law continues to be publicly unpopular?

With the majority of mandates, fees, and taxes taking effect in 2014, we are already beginning to see the alarming effects of the law on individuals, families, employers, and on our economy. It is one broken promise after another.

Promise No. 1. In attempting to convince the American people that the ACA was good, the President promised it would "save families \$2,500 in the coming years." But since 2008, the average American family has seen health insurance premiums rise more than \$3,000. Nonpartisan actuaries estimate that national health spending will grow at an average rate of close to 6 percent annually between 2011 and 2021. As national spending ticks up, American families will continue to see their monthly premiums go up.

States are beginning to release details on the rates consumers will pay for ACA-related health insurance starting on January 1. An unfortunate pattern is emerging—ACA-mandated insurance is going to increase costs for many Americans.

Recently, the State of Indiana announced that insurance rates will increase 72 percent for consumers in the individual market. Consumers in Ohio, Florida, South Carolina, and Maryland have also announced they are expecting to see their premiums increase significantly. Just yesterday, the Georgia insurance commissioner asked the Department of Health and Human Services to extend the deadline to approve health plans in their State because some rates were expected in Georgia to rise by 198 percent.

In my home State of Kansas, I consistently hear concerns from individuals, business owners, and even local government officials about the impending costs of the Affordable Care Act.

For example, rural Kansas school districts and special education co-ops, whose budgets are already stretched thin, will now be forced to cover the costs associated with the law. This has resulted in reductions in employees' hours and may trigger layoffs in order for the districts to avoid significant ACA-related penalties.

It is sad to visit with the director of a special education co-op only to learn that less services are going to be pro-

vided to special needs students because of the costs associated with the Affordable Care Act.

The American people were promised savings and security. Instead, we are experiencing less of both. The Affordable Care Act is leaving Americans with less options and simply unaffordable care.

Promise No. 2. In 2009, the President said:

No matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period.

Reality has since whittled down this promise dramatically. If you go to the Affordable Care Act Web site today, you will find this far less confident statement:

Depending on the plan you choose in the Marketplace, you may be able to keep your current doctor.

Even large labor unions have recently criticized the President and congressional Democrats for breaking this promise. Notably, the National Treasury Employees Union, the union that represents most IRS employees, is urging its members to write their elected officials to oppose any effort that would force them to participate in the health insurance exchanges.

Further, several unions stated:

When you and the President sought our support for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), you pledged that if we liked the health plans we have now, we could keep them. Sadly, that promise is under threat.

And another statement:

[A]pproximately 3 million laborers, retirees, and their families now face the very real prospect of losing their health benefits. This, I must remind you, was something that you promised would not happen.

Promise No. 3. The President indicated that the Affordable Care Act would "lower costs for . . . the federal government, reducing our deficit by over \$1 trillion in the next two decades. It is paid for. It is fiscally responsible."

The only way the Affordable Care Act will reduce deficits is by grossly increasing the taxes and fees associated with this law. One wonders how anyone believed at the time that the new entitlement program would ever save money.

These broken promises are more than just words. The administration's false starts and early failures in implementing the Affordable Care Act are just the beginning. The harm this law will do to individuals, families, and businesses will continue to emerge. In less than 3 months, individuals will be asked to start enrolling in a health insurance exchange when insurance rates, coverage requirements, and subsidy amounts are still largely unknown. And, increasingly, the question being asked is, What happens to individuals required to buy health insurance or face penalties if the exchanges are not ready on time?

I am the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services. I

offered two amendments to the fiscal year 2014 bill that would bring some certainty to this overarching issue.

First, I offered an amendment to codify the administration's decision to delay the employer mandate. While many of my colleagues on the Democratic side issued press releases praising the administration's decision to delay, when asked to affirmatively vote in committee to delay for 1 year, they all voted no. The amendment failed on a straight party-line vote.

The second amendment I offered delayed the implementation and enforcement of the individual mandate for 1 year. While I support the delay of the employer mandate, in that decision, like it or not, the administration undermined its own credibility in stating that the Affordable Care Act would be implemented on time, as promised. We should not, and cannot, require individuals to risk their health care coverage by signing up for an unworkable program with a dubious future. Unfortunately, my colleagues—again, on the Democratic side—disagreed. They refused to extend the exemption the President granted to businesses to families and individuals—to all Americans.

The evidence continues to show that the Affordable Care Act is so large and convoluted that it cannot be implemented into practice. Reports from State actuaries, the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, and nonpartisan think tanks have reached the same conclusion: Almost everything we were told about the Affordable Care Act is untrue.

We were told 3 years ago that we need to pass the Affordable Care Act to find out what is in it. Now we know, and it is not good. We don't need to force American families to endure another 3 years just to see how bad it actually will be.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2013, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use until later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business