H. R. 889

To limit the use of funds to reduce the total number of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are deployed to the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. HUD of Texas, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KIM, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. ROSE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.

A BILL

To limit the use of funds to reduce the total number of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are deployed to the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States and Republic of Korea Alliance Support Act”.

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SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO REDUCE THE
TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY
WHO ARE DEPLOYED TO THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that—

(1) it is in the United States national interest
to maintain treaty alliances and its forward military
presence in the Indo-Pacific region to deter conflict
and preserve peace and security;

(2) the United States fully stands behind com-
mitments to its allies in Northeast Asia as articu-
lated in the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the
United States and the Republic of Korea and the
Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between
the United States and Japan;

(3) the alliances between the United States and
the Republic of Korea and between the United
States and Japan form the bedrock of regional sta-
bility in the Indo-Pacific region, including with re-
spect to the threat posed by North Korea;

(4) the withdrawal or significant reduction of
United States Armed Forces from the Republic of
Korea may risk upsetting the military balance in
that region; and
(5) Congress should be consulted in advance of any significant changes to the status quo on the Korean Peninsula.

(b) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2019 may be used to reduce the total number of members of the United States Armed Forces serving on active duty who are deployed to the Republic of Korea below 22,000 unless—

(1) the Secretary of Defense first submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(A) the effect of such reduction on preserving deterrence on the Korean Peninsula;

(B) the anticipated reaction of North Korea to such reduction;

(C) the effect of such reduction on increasing incentives for the Republic of Korea to develop an independent nuclear deterrent;

(D) the effect of such reduction on the long-term military and economic partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea and the United States and Japan, respectively; and
(E) the effect of such reduction on the military balance between the United States and the People’s Republic of China and between the United States and the Russian Federation;

(2) the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, first certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) such a reduction is in the national security interest of the United States and will not significantly undermine the security of United States allies in the region;

(B) the Secretary has appropriately consulted with allies of the United States, including the Republic of Korea and Japan, regarding such a reduction; and

(C) the Republic of Korea would be fully capable of defending itself and deterring a conflict on the Korean Peninsula following such a reduction; and

(3) such a reduction supports and is consistent

with the most current national defense strategy under section 113 of title 10, United States Code.
(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “relevant congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.