

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, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

APRIL 3, 2019

Reported by Mr. RISCH, without amendment

APRIL 4, 2019

Considered and agreed to

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-

1 guard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation
2 of [its] peoples, founded on the principles of democ-
3 racy, individual liberty and the rule of law”.

4 (2) The United States Senate approved the
5 North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on July 21, 1949,
6 and the United States Government acceded to mem-
7 bership in NATO on August 24, 1949.

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

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

20 (5) The sustained commitment of NATO to
21 mutual defense has made possible the democratic
22 and economic transformation of Central and Eastern
23 Europe.

24 (6) Lasting stability and security in Europe re-
25 quires the further military, economic, and political

1 integration of emerging democracies into existing
2 European and transatlantic structures.

3 (7) NATO serves as a force multiplier, whose
4 command structures, training institutions, and mul-
5 tilateral exercises have generated unprecedented
6 multinational contributions to United States na-
7 tional security priorities and enabled European and
8 Canadian soldiers to fight side-by-side with members
9 of the United States Armed Forces.

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

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

18 (10) NATO is currently involved in several op-
19 erations benefiting United States national security,
20 including Operation Resolute Support in Afghani-
21 stan, NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR), Operation
22 Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean Sea (maritime
23 situational awareness, counter-terrorism at sea, and
24 support to capacity-building), the capacity-building
25 NATO Mission Iraq, support for African Union mis-

1 sions, and air policing missions in the member and
2 nonmember nations of Eastern Europe.

3 (11) NATO members have stood against Rus-
4 sian aggression in Eastern Europe, have supported
5 United States sanctions on that country and im-
6 posed their own, have responded, as noted in the
7 NATO Brussels Summit Declaration of 2018, “to
8 the deteriorated security environment by enhancing
9 our deterrence and defence posture, including by a
10 forward presence in the eastern part of the Alli-
11 ance,” and have asserted that “there can be no re-
12 turn to ‘business as usual’ until there is a clear, con-
13 structive change in Russia’s actions that dem-
14 onstrates compliance with international law and its
15 international obligations and responsibilities”.

16 (12) The NATO Wales Summit Declaration of
17 2014 pledged, “Allies currently meeting the NATO
18 guideline to spend a minimum of 2% of their Gross
19 Domestic Product (GDP) on defence will aim to con-
20 tinue to do so . . . Allies whose current proportion
21 of GDP spent on defence is below this level will: halt
22 any decline in defence expenditure; aim to increase
23 defence expenditure in real terms as GDP grows;
24 aim to move towards the 2% guideline within a dec-

1 ade with a view to meeting their NATO Capability
2 Targets and filling NATO’s capability shortfalls.”.

3 (13) Twenty-two NATO nations have increased
4 their military spending since the Wales Declaration
5 of 2014.

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

1 plans, 24 Allies will meet the 20% guideline by
2 2024. Allies are delivering more of the heavier, high-
3 end capabilities we require and are improving the
4 readiness, deployability, sustainability, and inter-
5 operability of their forces.”.

6 (15) NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg
7 has stated, “By the end of next year, NATO allies
8 will add . . . 100 billion extra U.S. dollars toward
9 defense.”.

10 (16) Allies who have recently acceded to NATO
11 are amongst the highest per capita contributors to
12 NATO missions.

13 (17) At the Bucharest Summit of the North At-
14 lantic Treaty Organization in April 2008, the Heads
15 of State and Government of the member countries of
16 NATO declared, “NATO’s ongoing enlargement
17 process has been an historic success in advancing
18 stability and cooperation and bringing us closer to
19 our common goal of a Europe whole and free, united
20 in peace, democracy and common values. NATO’s
21 door will remain open to European democracies will-
22 ing and able to assume the responsibilities and obli-
23 gations of membership, in accordance with Article
24 10 of the Washington Treaty. We reiterate that de-

1 cisions on enlargement are for NATO itself to
2 make.”.

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

7 (19) The governments, leaders, and parliaments
8 of Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia have
9 ended their dispute and ratified the Prespa Agree-
10 ment, resolving a long-standing bilateral dispute and
11 establishing a strategic partnership between the two
12 countries and clearing the way for North Macedo-
13 nia’s accession to NATO.

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

15 The Senate—

16 (1) lauds NATO for its 70-year maintenance of
17 the alliance and recognizes its singular contributions
18 to maintaining the safety, security, and democratic
19 systems of its members;

20 (2) calls on NATO member states to continue
21 to fully meet their Wales pledges, more fully share
22 the security burden by increasing their defense
23 spending with a focus on meeting capabilities tar-
24 gets, enhancing interoperability, improving readi-

1 ness, and modernization to respond to the threats
2 that face the alliance on each of its flanks;

3 (3) stands in robust support of those NATO
4 members who spend two percent or more of their
5 GDPs on defense, acknowledges the four countries
6 that have met that goal since 2014, and strongly en-
7 courages the remainder to strive to quickly reach
8 that goal;

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

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

16 (6) welcomes former Secretary of Defense
17 James Mattis’ efforts to encourage significant
18 NATO reforms, especially regarding modernization,
19 readiness, command structure adaptation, military
20 mobility, and improving NATO’s speed of decision-
21 making to ensure the alliance remains fit for pur-
22 pose; and

23 (7) reaffirms the commitment of the United
24 States to NATO’s mission, and its belief that NATO
25 is the most successful security alliance in our Na-

1 tion's history and one that will continue to be a cor-
2 nerstone of United States security.

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