

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S.J. Res. 4. A joint resolution requiring the advice and consent of the Senate or an Act of Congress to suspend, terminate, or withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty and authorizing related litigation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President. I regret it is necessary to re-introduce legislation that prevents a President from withdrawing the United States from NATO. Recent reports confirm that President Trump has repeatedly proposed doing so over the past year. In addition to concern over U.S. national security, this threat to withdraw also raises important constitutional issues. What is the role of Congress in treaties—not just entering into them, but also leaving them? Particularly with a treaty obligation that is as central to U.S. security as NATO—as repeatedly affirmed by Congress—no president should or can be allowed to unilaterally withdraw without the advice and consent of the Senate.

Our allies with whom we have fought alongside since World War II and earlier in some cases, are questioning our allegiance for the first time in the history of the modern international order. President Trump has called our European allies “foes” while aligning himself with a brutal authoritarian, Vladimir Putin, over the professional assessment of the U.S. intelligence community. Last year, at the NATO summit in Brussels, the President insulted our allies and threatened to leave the alliance if defense spending was not ramped up. The President has also questioned the U.S. commitment to NATO’s mutual defense provision and we still do not know what he discussed with President Putin at their meeting in Helsinki. As such, we are forced to ask what options we have to preserve U.S. membership in the primary tool of peace and stability for the last 70 years, NATO.

In response to the only invocation of Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, more than 1,100 servicemembers from our NATO allies have given their lives fighting alongside the United States. This is a sacrifice that should not be cast aside by our President who continues to depict the alliance as a protection racket and “obsolete.” While we must continue to press every country to increase defense spending to meet the agreed-upon goal of 2 percent of GDP by 2024, the President should not disparage our allies and threaten NATO withdrawal. Unfortunately, without action from Congress, he might just do so. For this reason, we must firmly state opposition, use our constitutional powers of advice and consent and of the purse to block any withdrawal and preemptively authorize legal proceedings to challenge any decision to terminate U.S. membership.

The legislation I am introducing today along with Senators GARDNER, REED, GRAHAM, COONS, RUBIO, BLUMENTHAL, and COLLINS, is a bipartisan message to the President and the necessary tool needed to block this President, or any President, from unilaterally terminating the NATO treaty. It is the position of the Senate, supported by this Resolution, and previous resolutions, including the original vote of 82-13 in 1949 to give the Senate’s advice and consent to join NATO, that the United States through its elected officials is unequivocally opposed to the U.S. withdrawing from NATO.

I am proud to have bipartisan support for this bill to ensure that the safety of the American people is prioritized through our continued membership in NATO. Lastly, supporting this bill would fittingly honor the late Senator John McCain, one of the fiercest advocates for NATO, who co-sponsored this bill last year—one of the last bills he co-sponsored. I strongly encourage my colleagues in both the Senate and the House of Representative to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 20—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PROTECTING LIFE IN GLOBAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE POLICY SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 20

Whereas section 104(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b(f)) (commonly referred to as the “Helms amendment”) states that no foreign assistance funds may be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions;

Whereas section 518 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-102; 119 Stat. 2202) (commonly referred to as the “Siljander Amendment”) states that no foreign assistance funds may be used to lobby for or against abortion;

Whereas, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan established the “Mexico City Policy,” which prohibits foreign aid for family planning purposes from being given to foreign nongovernmental organizations that perform abortions or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning, regardless of the source of funding;

Whereas, upon assuming office on January 20, 1989, President George H.W. Bush contin-

ued to enforce the Mexico City Policy as established by President Reagan;

Whereas the Mexico City Policy was reestablished on January 22, 2001, by President George W. Bush;

Whereas, on January 23, 2009, President Barack Obama rescinded the Mexico City Policy;

Whereas, on January 23, 2017, President Donald J. Trump reestablished the Mexico City Policy and directed the Secretary of State to apply the policy to all Federal global health assistance; and

Whereas the Department of State modernized the Mexico City Policy on May 15, 2017, renamed “Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance,” to cover all health assistance provided abroad by a Federal agency, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should expeditiously consider statutory changes that permanently codify the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 21—TO CONSTITUTE THE MINORITY PARTY’S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 21

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the minority party’s membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Manchin, Mr. Wyden, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Hirono, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22—CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN NAIROBI, KENYA ON JANUARY 15, 2019, AND OFFERING SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO ALL OF THE VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, AND THE PEOPLE OF KENYA

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 22

Whereas, on January 15, 2019, attackers launched a 19-hour siege on the 14 Riverside complex and Dusit D2 hotel complex in Nairobi, Kenya, opening fire and detonating suicide bombs;

Whereas at least 21 people were killed, and many others were injured or remain unaccounted for;

Whereas, among those killed was Jason Spindler, a United States citizen;

Whereas the Somalia-based extremist group al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack;

Whereas the United States has a deep and abiding interest in the security and stability of Kenya, a key partner to the United States in the war on terror; and

Whereas respect for human rights, due process, and the rule of law is essential to