

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6597

To establish a Task Force on the Indo-Pacific Treaty Organization, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2023

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a Task Force on the Indo-Pacific Treaty
Organization, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Indo-Pacific Treaty
5 Organization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) For years, the People’s Republic of China
9 (“China”), has repeatedly exhibited aggressive and
10 irresponsible behavior towards the United States and

1 its allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific. This in-
2 cludes establishing overseas military bases in the
3 South China Sea, deploying ships and planes near
4 Japan’s Senkaku Islands, invading Taiwan’s air
5 space, and sending a high-altitude surveillance bal-
6 loon over the United States.

7 (2) For years, the Democratic People’s Repub-
8 lic of Korea (“North Korea”) has repeatedly exhib-
9 ited aggressive and erratic behavior towards the
10 United States and its allies and partners in the
11 Indo-Pacific. This includes conducting missile tests
12 dangerously close to South Korea and Japan as well
13 as deepening ties with the Chinese Communist Party
14 and other hostile regimes.

15 (3) Both China and North Korea pose signifi-
16 cant risks to regional security in the Indo-Pacific, to
17 United States security, and to international security.

18 (4) It is critical that the United States work
19 with allies and partners to proactively deter further
20 aggression from China and North Korea to preserve
21 peace, ensure prosperity, and advance democracy.

22 **SEC. 3. TASK FORCE.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
25 establish a task force, to be known as the “Task Force

1 on the Indo-Pacific Treaty Organization” (in this section
2 referred to as the “Task Force”) to—

3 (1) analyze the conduct of China and North
4 Korea, as well as the security situation in the Indo-
5 Pacific; and

6 (2) determine whether a collective security
7 agreement between the United States and Indo-Pa-
8 cific allies and partners could serve as an effective
9 deterrent to further aggression.

10 (b) ALLIES AND PARTNERS.—The Indo-Pacific allies
11 and partners described in subsection (a)(2) may include
12 Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand,
13 New Zealand, India, and any other country in the Indo-
14 Pacific region the Task Force determines appropriate.

15 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force established pur-
16 suant to subsection (a) shall be—

17 (1) chaired by the Secretary of State; and

18 (2) consist of the Secretary of Defense, Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury, Secretary of Commerce, the
20 Director of National Intelligence, the Assistant Sec-
21 retary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs,
22 and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pa-
23 cific Security Affairs.

24 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
25 of the establishment of the Task Force, the Secretary of

1 State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
2 and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
3 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations
4 and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate a
5 report that contains the results of the analysis described
6 in subsection (a) and any recommendations of the Task
7 Force with respect to the terms of such a collective secu-
8 rity agreement.

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