

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 NATO member nations and 6 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 to continue to transform 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 65 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 American Treaty Organization (referred to in this resolution as "NATO"), 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 oriented toward the changing international security environment and the challenges of the future;

(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; and

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 157—EX-
PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE THAT TELEPHONE
SERVICE MUST BE IMPROVED IN
RURAL AREAS OF THE UNITED
STATES AND THAT NO ENTITY
MAY UNREASONABLY DISCRIMI-
NATE AGAINST TELEPHONE
USERS IN THOSE AREAS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 157

Whereas all people in the United States rely on quality, efficient, and dependable telephone service in many aspects of life, including conducting business, securing the safety of the public, and connecting families;

Whereas multiple surveys conducted by the National Exchange Carrier Association revealed that complaints of uncompleted telephone calls persist, with the most recent survey in October 2012 indicating a 41 percent increase in uncompleted calls between March and September of the same year;

Whereas the National Exchange Carrier Association and rural telecommunications carriers in April 2012 supplied information that—

(1) 6.4 percent of calls to rural areas failed, but only 0.5 percent of calls to urban areas failed; and

(2) 11 percent of calls to rural areas were either poor quality or were delayed, compared to only 5 percent in urban areas;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission was made aware of an issue regarding telephone service connection in rural areas in November 2010 and has since issued a declaratory ruling and a notice of proposed rulemaking with respect to the issue and has reached a settlement with one telecommunications carrier;

Whereas, in a declaratory ruling in February 2012, the Federal Communications Commission made it clear that blocking or otherwise restricting telephone service is a violation of section 201(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201(b)), which prohibits unjust or unreasonable practices, and section 202(a) of that Act (47 U.S.C. 202(a)), which outlines the duty of a telecommunications carrier to refrain from discrimination;

Whereas actions by the Federal Communications Commission have not significantly decreased the prevalence of telephone calls being rerouted by telecommunications carriers and some States are seeing an increase in complaints as of April 2013;

Whereas telephone communications are vital to keeping rural areas of the United

States competitive in the economy, and a low rate of telephone call completion results in economic injury to rural businesses, including farmers, trucking companies, and suppliers who have seen thousands of dollars in business lost when telephone calls are not completed;

Whereas the safety of the public is at risk from a lack of quality telephone communications, including 911 services;

Whereas schools depend on telephone calls to notify students and parents of emergencies, and health care centers depend on telecommunications services to save lives and to communicate with rural patients;

Whereas small, local telecommunications carriers are losing valuable, multi-line business subscribers because of a lack of quality telecommunications services, which is financially detrimental to those carriers and adversely affects the rural communities served by those carriers; and

Whereas it may cost a telecommunications carrier serving a rural area hundreds of dollars to investigate each complaint of an uncompleted telephone call: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) all providers must appropriately complete calls to all areas of the United States regardless of the technology used by the providers;

(2) no entity may unreasonably discriminate against telephone users in rural areas of the United States; and

(3) the Federal Communications Commission should—

(A) aggressively pursue those that violate the rules of the Federal Communications Commission and create these problems, and impose swift and meaningful enforcement actions to discourage—

(i) practices leading to telephone calls not being completed in rural areas of the United States; and

(ii) unreasonable discrimination against telephone users in rural areas of the United States; and

(B) move forward with clear, comprehensive, and enforceable actions in order to establish a robust and definitive solution to discrimination against telephone users in rural areas of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 158—TO AU-
THORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF
RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGA-
TIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOV-
ERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 158

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted a review of the expenditures of U.S. funds related to U.S. efforts in Afghanistan;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a request from a federal agency for access to records of the Subcommittee's review;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the