

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 397

Solemnly reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's principle of collective defense as enumerated in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ROYCE of California, and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Solemnly reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's principle of collective defense as enumerated in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Whereas more than 250,000 Americans died in the Second World War to liberate Europe from the scourge of genocidal fascism;

Whereas in the wake of the cataclysm of the Second World War, the United States, Canada, and European partners founded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Washington in 1949;

Whereas the foundation of NATO is collective defense as enumerated in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty which

states that, “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.”;

Whereas NATO is one of the most successful military alliances in history, deterring the outbreak of another world war, protecting the territorial integrity of its members, and seeing the Cold War through to a peaceful conclusion;

Whereas Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty has only been invoked once in history when alliance members came to the aid of the United States following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas NATO allies and partners, including Canada and countries in Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe, including countries of the Western Balkans, and the former Soviet Union have stood alongside the United States in joint operations in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere around the globe;

Whereas NATO remains the foundation of United States foreign policy of promoting a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace;

Whereas at the Wales Summit in 2014, NATO leaders agreed that each alliance member would spend at least two percent of its nation’s gross domestic product on defense by 2024;

Whereas multiple Presidents have reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to the collective defense guarantees in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty; and

Whereas the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the sole power to declare war: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) solemnly reaffirms the commitment of the
3 United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organi-
4 zation’s principle of collective defense as enumerated
5 in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty;

6 (2) strongly supports the decision at the NATO
7 Wales Summit in 2014 that each alliance member
8 would spend at least two percent of its nation’s
9 gross domestic product on defense by 2024;

10 (3) condemns any threat to the sovereignty, ter-
11 ritorial integrity, freedom and democracy of any
12 NATO ally; and

13 (4) welcomes the Republic of Montenegro as the
14 29th member of the NATO Alliance.

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