

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 27

To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the terrorist organization Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (“ISIL”).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the terrorist organization Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (“ISIL”).

Whereas for months the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (“ISIL”) has been engaged in a campaign of murder and mayhem across a broad swath of Iraq and Syria that has killed thousands of innocent people and terrorized millions;

Whereas ISIL has brought under its control large areas of Iraq and Syria and announced on June 29, 2014, the establishment of a new caliphate;

Whereas in its conduct of military operations, its treatment of personnel captured on the battlefield, and its behavior towards civilians in areas under its control, ISIL has

shown a level of brutality and depravity that shocks the conscience;

Whereas ISIL has murdered American, British, and Japanese hostages and continues to hold and threaten the lives of other western hostages;

Whereas the threat posed by the recruitment of ISIL fighters in the United States and Europe and the prospect of these fighters returning to the United States or allied countries jeopardizes the security of the United States and its allies;

Whereas ISIL poses an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States and if left unchecked will be the locus of plots to attack our homeland;

Whereas the rise of ISIL, the continuing threat posed by al Qaeda, and the redeployment of United States combat troops from Afghanistan highlight the need to re-examine and harmonize the legal authorities under which the President is authorized to take offensive military action; and

Whereas the President has authority under the Constitution to take action to protect the United States and its citizens from imminent threat or attack but Congress alone holds the power to declare war: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This joint resolution may be cited as the “Authoriza-
 5 tion for Use of Military Force Against ISIL Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES**
 2 **ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President is authorized to
 4 use the Armed Forces of the United States against the
 5 Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (“ISIL”).

6 (b) **GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATION.**—The authority
 7 granted in subsection (a) shall be confined to the territory
 8 of the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The
 9 limitation of this subsection shall not apply to the Armed
 10 Forces of the United States engaged in training of indige-
 11 nous Syrian or regional military forces for the purpose of
 12 combating ISIL.

13 (c) **NO AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF GROUND**
 14 **FORCES IN COMBAT.**—The authority granted in sub-
 15 section (a) does not include the authority for the deploy-
 16 ment of ground forces in a combat role. For purposes of
 17 this subsection, “ground forces in a combat role” does not
 18 include special operations forces or other forces that may
 19 be deployed in a training, advisory, search and rescue, or
 20 intelligence capacity.

21 (d) **TERMINATION.**—The authority granted in sub-
 22 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is three years
 23 after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

24 (e) **WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.**—

25 (1) **SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.**—

26 Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers

1 Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is
 2 intended to constitute specific statutory authoriza-
 3 tion within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War
 4 Powers Resolution.

5 (2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIRE-
 6 MENTS.—Nothing in this joint resolution supersedes
 7 any requirement of the War Powers Resolution.

8 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF**
 9 **UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.**

10 (a) REPEAL.—The following provisions of law are
 11 hereby repealed:

12 (1) The Authorization for Use of Military Force
 13 Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107–
 14 243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

15 (2) The Authorization for Use of Military Force
 16 (Public Law 107–40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal made by sub-
 18 section (a)(2) shall be effective as of the date that is three
 19 years after the date of the enactment of this joint resolu-
 20 tion.

21 **SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, at least once
 23 every 60 days after the date of the enactment of this joint
 24 resolution, submit to the Speaker of the House of Rep-
 25 resentatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate

1 a report on matters relevant to this joint resolution, in-
2 cluding actions taken pursuant to the exercise of authority
3 granted in section 2 and the status of planning for efforts
4 that are expected to be required over the next 60 days.

5 (b) CONSOLIDATION.—To the extent that the submis-
6 sion of any report required in subsection (a) coincides with
7 the submissions of any other report on matters relevant
8 to this joint resolution otherwise required to be submitted
9 to Congress pursuant to the reporting requirements of the
10 War Powers Resolution, all such reports may be submitted
11 as a single consolidated report to the Speaker of the
12 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
13 of the Senate.

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