

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 202

Reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic
Treaty Organization (NATO).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2017

Mr. DELANEY (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. COLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LANCE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Whereas, on April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded with the ideals of democracy, individual liberty, and the desire for peaceful resolutions of disputes;

Whereas for over six decades, NATO has been a successful intergovernmental political and military alliance;

Whereas NATO's collective defense acts as a deterrent to aggression where the alliance defends its Allied countries against external security threats;

Whereas NATO strengthens the security of the United States by utilizing an integrated military coalition;

Whereas Russia has continued to threaten the sovereignty of countries in Europe and exhibit threatening behavior toward our own military assets, NATO sends a clear collective message that the Alliance will not tolerate Russia's provocation;

Whereas in respect to the changing threats against Europe and the United States since the end of the Cold War, NATO has evolved to take on new dangers including terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and cyber attacks;

Whereas after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, NATO invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty for the first time in NATO's history to deploy military resources to Afghanistan in support of the United States mission to combat a dangerous terrorist threat;

Whereas NATO aided the United States military by leading the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan from August 2003 to 2014, working with Afghan authorities to respond to the terrorist insurgency and to provide effective security across the country;

Whereas NATO continues a civilian-led presence in Afghanistan to strengthen Afghan security forces and institutions to ensure the country can rebuild its security operations and end safe haven for terrorists;

Whereas in November 2002 at the Prague Summit, NATO leaders adopted a Prague package to adapt NATO to the challenge of combating terrorism which included a Military Concept for Defense against Terrorism, a Partner-

ship Action Plan against Terrorism, missile defense, cyber defense, and enhanced intelligence sharing;

Whereas in November 2006 at the Riga Summit, NATO declared that “terrorism, increasingly global in scope and lethal in results, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction are likely to be the principal threats to the Alliance over the next 10 to 15 years”;

Whereas in July 2016 at the Warsaw Summit, NATO leaders agreed to strengthen the Alliance’s military presence in Eastern Europe, declared Initial Operational Capability of NATO’s Ballistic Missile Defense to strengthen the defense of Allied countries against ballistic missiles, and recognized cyberspace as a new operational domain; and

Whereas the attacks in Paris, France; Berlin, Germany; Istanbul, Turkey; and Brussels, Belgium, home of the NATO Headquarters, shows the importance of an international alliance to combat terrorist groups: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the United States reaffirms its commitment
4 to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
5 as the foundation of transatlantic security and de-
6 fense;

7 (2) NATO serves as a critical coalition in pre-
8 serving peace and stability in the transatlantic re-
9 gion;

10 (3) NATO’s continued effort to develop new ca-
11 pabilities and technologies to combat terrorism and

1 a changing international security environment are
2 crucial to enhancing national security and strength-
3 ening the United States ability to combat evolving
4 security threats; and

5 (4) the United States encourages each NATO
6 member country to meet or exceed the commitment
7 to spend two percent of its Gross Domestic Product
8 (GDP) on defense.

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