

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 612

Recognizing and reaffirming the critical relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea since the establishment of the Republic of Korea in 1948.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and reaffirming the critical relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea since the establishment of the Republic of Korea in 1948.

Whereas the United States, still fatigued from World War II, witnessed a Soviet Union-supported North Korea that crossed the 38th parallel invading the Republic of Korea;

Whereas only through the robust partnership of the United States and the Republic of Korea did they repel North Korean forces to north of the 38th parallel, establishing the Korean Armistice Agreement, and ending formal hostilities in 1953;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have shared a strong alliance since the end of hostilities in 1953 and entering into the Mutual Defense Treaty establishing the United States-Republic of Korea alliance;

Whereas the Republic of Korea began an economic boom in the early 1960s as it recovered from the Korean War, pushing it high into the ranks of the largest industrialized nations in the world;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have cooperated on the peaceful use and implementation of nuclear energy for almost 60 years;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea trade more than \$145,000,000,000 a year in goods, services, and foreign direct investment to further bolster the economies of the two countries;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is covered by the United States nuclear umbrella to aid in deterrence of any aggressors, further building on the alliance;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have worked mutually on pressuring North Korea towards denuclearization;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea conduct 5 major training exercises and several dozen small unit exercises every year in preparation for continued provocations by North Korea;

Whereas the Republic of Korea pays more than \$800,000,000 a year in support of United States military costs incurred due to the presence of 28,500 troops on the peninsula;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has paid nearly \$10,000,000,000 to build and expand Camp Humphreys for use by the United States; and

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is strong, and no matter the challenge, “we go together”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms the importance of the United
3 States-Republic of Korea alliance as a linchpin for
4 security, stability, and prosperity on the Korean Pe-
5 ninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond;

6 (2) reinforces the longstanding United States
7 commitments to defend the Republic of Korea to in-
8 clude providing a full spectrum of extended deter-
9 rence;

10 (3) reaffirms the United States support for Re-
11 public of Korea forces and continued combined exer-
12 cises through the region and that the United States
13 military presence in South Korea should not be in-
14 cluded or discussed in any potential negotiation with
15 North Korea;

16 (4) urges the Governments of the United States
17 and the Republic of Korea to take the opportunity
18 of President Trump’s upcoming state visit to the Re-
19 public of Korea to send a louder and clearer message
20 to North Korea that any and all destabilizing provo-
21 cations will be met with a resolute response by the
22 United States-Republic of Korea combined forces
23 and that should North Korea instead take a step in

1 the right direction, the United States, the Republic
2 of Korea, and the international community are ready
3 to present a brighter future;

4 (5) recognizes that the United States-Korea
5 Free Trade Agreement, one of the key pillars of the
6 relations between the United States and the Repub-
7 lic of Korea, is mutually beneficial and has been con-
8 tributing to the alliance, and encourages the United
9 States and the Republic of Korea to work together
10 to resolve any outstanding issues through the bilat-
11 eral consultative process; and

12 (6) encourages the Governments of the United
13 States and the Republic of Korea to continue broad-
14 ening and deepening the alliance by enhancing co-
15 operation and building new partnerships in both the
16 security and nonsecurity areas.

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