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S. CON. RES. 52

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Security Consultative Meeting
between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Security Consultative Meeting between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

Whereas, on October 31, 2018, the United States and the Republic of Korea (also known as “ROK”) co-hosted the 50th annual Republic of Korea-United States Security Consultative Meeting (commonly known and referred to in this preamble as the “SCM”);

Whereas the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States dates back to the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953, in which the United States committed to defending its ally from outside aggression;

Whereas the United States currently stations 28,500 troops on the Korean Peninsula as part of the obligation of the United States to defend the Republic of Korea;

Whereas the SCM supports broader diplomatic engagements between the 2 allies that span a broad array of issues important to the people of the Republic of Korea and to the people of the United States;

Whereas the SCM has been crucial to the continued economic prosperity of the Republic of Korea and to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the SCM has reinforced the critical alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and deepens the friendship between the 2 countries;

Whereas the 50th anniversary of the SCM signifies an enduring alliance based on the shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the SCM uses the “Joint Vision for ROK-U.S. Alliance” and the “Guidelines for ROK-U.S. Defense Cooperation” to enhance the alliance beyond one of military cooperation to one of mutual trust;

Whereas the SCM has been crucial in facilitating independent operational capabilities of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea, allowing those forces to expand their defense capabilities and assume operational control of the combined forces under the current armistice;

Whereas the SCM is key to strengthening bilateral cooperation in responding to global security challenges and threats, including terrorism, piracy, natural disasters, peacekeeping operations, and stabilization and reconstruction;

Whereas the SCM will continue to pursue complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of the nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs of North Korea to maintain a lasting peace; and

Whereas, with the continued and growing threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the increasing importance of the Indo-Pacific region, the SCM has come to represent the irreplaceable friendship and alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the
4 Republic of Korea-United States Security Consult-
5 ative Meeting (“SCM”) and the enduring relation-
6 ship between the United States and the Republic of
7 Korea that the SCM represents;

8 (2) reaffirms the military alliance based on mu-
9 tual trust and shared values between the United
10 States and the Republic of Korea;

11 (3) recognizes that the alliance between the
12 United States and the Republic of Korea will remain
13 ironclad, irrespective of any efforts by third parties
14 to sow discord between the countries; and

15 (4) supports the continued pursuit of—

1 (A) a complete, verifiable, and irreversible
2 dismantlement of the nuclear weapons and bal-
3 listic missile programs of North Korea; and

4 (B) lasting peace and stability on the Ko-
5 rean Peninsula and throughout the Indo-Pacific
6 region.

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