

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6530

To prohibit the use of funds to withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2018

Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. KNIGHT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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

A BILL

To prohibit the use of funds to withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “No NATO Withdrawal
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that:

1 (1) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
2 (NATO), which came into being through the North
3 Atlantic Treaty, which entered into force on April 4,
4 1949, between the United States of America and the
5 other founding members of the North American
6 Treaty Organization, has served as a pillar of inter-
7 national peace and stability, a critical component of
8 United States security, and a deterrent against ad-
9 versaries and external threats.

10 (2) The House of Representatives affirmed in
11 H. Res. 397, on June 27, 2017, that—

12 (A) “NATO is one of the most successful
13 military alliances in history, deterring the out-
14 break of another world war, protecting the ter-
15 ritorial integrity of its members, and seeing the
16 Cold War through to a peaceful conclusion”;

17 (B) NATO remains the foundation of
18 United States foreign policy to promote a Eu-
19 rope that is whole, free, and at peace;

20 (C) the United States is solemnly com-
21 mitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-
22 tion’s principle of collective defense as enumer-
23 ated in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty;
24 and

25 (D) the House of Representatives—

1 (i) strongly supports the decision at
2 the NATO Wales Summit in 2014 that
3 each alliance member would aim to spend
4 at least 2 percent of its nation’s gross do-
5 mestic product on defense by 2024;

6 (ii) condemns any threat to the sov-
7 ereignty, territorial integrity, freedom and
8 democracy of any NATO ally; and

9 (iii) welcomes the Republic of Monte-
10 negro as the 29th member of the NATO
11 Alliance.

12 (3) On July 12, 2018, Speaker Ryan stated
13 that “NATO is indispensable. It is as important
14 today as it ever has been.”

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17 (1) the President shall not unilaterally with-
18 draw the United States from NATO; and

19 (2) the case *Goldwater v. Carter* is not control-
20 ling legal precedent with respect to the unilateral
21 withdrawal of the United States from a treaty.

22 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

23 It is the policy of the United States—

24 (1) to remain a member in good standing of
25 NATO;

1 (2) to reject any efforts to withdraw the United
2 States from NATO, either directly or through con-
3 demnation of the organization; and

4 (3) to continue to work with NATO members to
5 ensure each country spends at least 2 percent of its
6 gross domestic product on defense spending, at least
7 20 percent of which should be for procurement.

8 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FUNDS TO WITH-**
9 **DRAW FROM NATO.**

10 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds
11 are authorized to be appropriated, obligated, or expended
12 to take any action to withdraw the United States from
13 the North Atlantic Treaty, done at Washington, DC on
14 April 4, 1949, between the United States of America and
15 the other founding members of the North American Trea-
16 ty Organization.

17 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON THE MILITARY AND SECURITY RAMI-**
18 **FICATIONS OF NATO.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
21 the Secretary of Defense, in concurrence with the Sec-
22 retary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
23 sional committees a report that includes each of the fol-
24 lowing:

1 (1) The number of NATO forces committed to
2 operations in which the United States participates.

3 (2) The number of NATO forces killed in the
4 previous year during the course of such operations.

5 (3) An assessment of the impact on United
6 States readiness in the event that the Armed Forces
7 were required to fill positions vacated by NATO as
8 a result of the withdrawal of the United States from
9 that organization.

10 (4) A description of defense spending levels of
11 NATO member states tracing the trajectory over the
12 last five years and future projections.

13 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
14 shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain
15 a classified annex.

16 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
17 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means—

19 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
20 Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on
21 Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Com-
22 mittee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
23 tives; and

24 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
25 Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on

- 1 Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intel-
- 2 ligence of the Senate.

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