

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4982

To limit the authority of the President to carry out large-scale military parades.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Mr. SCHNEIDER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To limit the authority of the President to carry out large-scale military parades.

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 “Preparedness Before
5 Parades Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) President Donald J. Trump has ordered the
9 Department of Defense to carry out a large-scale
10 military parade.

1 (2) There have only been a select handful of
2 large-scale military parades in the United States in
3 the last 100 years, including in 1946 following the
4 victory in World War II and in 1991 following the
5 victory in the Persian Gulf War.

6 (3) Estimates place the cost of the military pa-
7 rade in 1991 following the Persian Gulf War around
8 \$8,000,000 to \$12,000,000, including some funding
9 having come from private sources.

10 (4) A large-scale military parade costing mil-
11 lions of dollars will divert essential funding des-
12 perately needed for investment in military readiness.

13 (5) Budget uncertainty and continuing resolu-
14 tions have had a severe negative impact on the
15 Armed Forces, as demonstrated by the following
16 statements:

17 (A) In December 2017, President Donald
18 J. Trump stated that “In recent years, our
19 military has undergone a series of deep budget
20 cuts that have severely impacted our readiness,
21 shrunk our capabilities, and placed substantial
22 burdens on our warfighters.”.

23 (B) Congressman Mac Thornberry, Chair-
24 man of the Committee on Armed Services of
25 the House of Representatives, stated in Sep-

1 tember 2017 that “it is hard to remember a
2 time when our military readiness crisis has been
3 on such sharp display.” Thornberry further
4 stated, “We have too few planes that can fly,
5 too few ships that can sail and too few soldiers
6 who can deploy.”

7 (C) In February 2018, Secretary of De-
8 fense Jim Mattis said, “Let me be clear: As
9 hard as the last 16 years of war have been, no
10 enemy in the field has done more to harm the
11 readiness of the U.S. military than the com-
12 bined impact of the Budget Control Act’s de-
13 fense spending caps, worsened by operating in
14 10 of the last 11 years under continuing resolu-
15 tions of varied and unpredictable duration.”

16 (D) In January 2018, Secretary of the
17 Navy Richard V. Spencer said in regard to the
18 impact of continuing resolutions on the Navy’s
19 budget, “We have put \$4 billion in a trash can,
20 poured lighter fluid on it, and burned it.”

21 (E) In December 2017, Pentagon Chief
22 Spokesperson Dana W. White said, “Nothing’s
23 had a greater impact on combat readiness than
24 C.R.s. So—and at a time where security threats
25 are high, we really do need the predictability in

1 the budget, certainty that we don't have with
2 C.R.s.''.

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

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) providing budget certainty to the Depart-
6 ment of Defense and all other Federal agencies by
7 passing appropriations legislation on time through
8 regular order is of the utmost importance;

9 (2) in a period when United States warplanes
10 and ships are not at operational capacity, personnel
11 are not fully trained, military families require sig-
12 nificant financial assistance, and veterans' programs
13 require substantial increases, a large-scale military
14 parade would be wasteful to the United States tax-
15 payer and harmful to military readiness;

16 (3) the President should express support for
17 members of the Armed Forces, honor their service,
18 and thank them for the great sacrifices they have
19 made and continue to make to protect the United
20 States by appropriately funding the military, sup-
21 porting service members and their families, and pro-
22 moting opportunities for veterans once they transi-
23 tion out of the Armed Forces; and

24 (4) military parades should not be used for the
25 personal pleasure of the President.

1 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION.**

2 The President may not direct the Department of De-
3 fense to carry out a large-scale military parade unless—

4 (1) the Secretary of Defense certifies to Con-
5 gress that—

6 (A) the parade will have no effect on the
7 military readiness or budgetary needs of the
8 Armed Forces;

9 (B) the diversion of personnel and equip-
10 ment associated with the parade will have no ef-
11 fect on the military readiness of the Armed
12 Forces; and

13 (C) the financial costs associated with the
14 parade will have no effect on the military readi-
15 ness of the Armed Forces;

16 (2) the Government of any municipality where
17 the parade will be conducted approves the parade
18 not later than 90 days before the date on which the
19 parade occurs; and

20 (3) not less than 50 percent of the costs of the
21 parade are paid for by funds appropriated to the Ex-
22 ecutive Office of the President.

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