

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2231

To establish a joint commission on North Korea, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2017

Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida) 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 establish a joint commission on North Korea, 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. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) Preventing North Korea from proliferating
7 illegal nuclear weapons and related material is a top
8 priority for the United States and regional partners,
9 including Japan, China, and South Korea.

1 (2) Presidential transitions in Washington, DC,
2 and Seoul, South Korea, create opportunities for in-
3 stability that North Korea could exploit for addi-
4 tional provocations.

5 (3) North Korea is already violating the letter
6 and spirit of numerous United Nations Security
7 Council resolutions.

8 (4) North Korea allegedly test-fired a ballistic
9 missile on February 11, 2017.

10 (5) Strengthening high-level dialogue about
11 North Korean nuclear proliferation between the
12 United States, regional partners, and the United
13 Nations would bring necessary attention to the
14 issue, which has languished over successive Repub-
15 lican and Democratic Administrations.

16 (6) The United States would benefit from a
17 comprehensive strategy, jointly implemented with its
18 regional partners, including China, to prevent North
19 Korea from becoming armed with nuclear weapons
20 and strengthen the shared goal of achieving a
21 denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

22 (7) In addition to supporting the work of the
23 United Nations Panel of Experts on North Korea,
24 the United States and its partners would benefit
25 from a senior-level dialogue to coordinate sanctions

1 enforcement, to detect North Korea proliferation ac-
2 tivities, and to prepare contingency responses in the
3 event of North Korean nuclear or conventional
4 provocations.

5 (8) The United States, along with its allies and
6 partners, have highly capable military and nuclear
7 experts who can refine plans to respond to a North
8 Korea capability development that endangers the
9 United States homeland and could recommend de-
10 fensive measures to address vulnerabilities.

11 (9) The trilateral relationship between the
12 United States, Japan, and South Korea has served
13 as an important node for sharing information about
14 the North Korean threat and the trilateral relation-
15 ship should be expanded to serve as a focal point for
16 regional cooperation regarding North Korea.

17 (10) Generally, it is in the interest of the
18 United States to remain the security partner of
19 choice for allies and partners in the Indo-Asia Pa-
20 cific region and to strengthen norms based on the
21 liberal international order that has undergirded
22 peace and stability in the region since the end of
23 World War II.

24 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that the United States should expand the trilateral

1 mechanism to serve as a focal point for regional coopera-
2 tion regarding North Korea.

3 **SEC. 2. JOINT COMMISSION ON NORTH KOREA.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President, acting through
5 the Secretary of State, may seek to establish a joint com-
6 mission with countries in the Indo-Asia Pacific region
7 (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”).

8 (b) ACTIVITIES.—The Commission may undertake
9 the following activities:

10 (1) Supporting professional dialogues, including
11 by convening or sponsoring travel to meetings with
12 nongovernmental experts, to—

13 (A) coordinate the detection of North Ko-
14 rean violations of existing United Nations Secu-
15 rity Council resolutions;

16 (B) develop possible responses to such vio-
17 lations; and

18 (C) enhance monitoring of nuclear weapons
19 proliferation capabilities.

20 (2) Coordinating sub-cabinet-level political dis-
21 cussions on contingency responses to North Korean
22 violations of United Nations Security Council resolu-
23 tions.

24 (3) Facilitating technical discussions among the
25 Departments of State, Defense, Energy, and the

1 Treasury and the Intelligence Community and their
2 counterparts in countries in the Indo-Asia Pacific re-
3 gion on technical aspects of North Korea's nuclear
4 program and accompanying United States sanctions.

5 (4) Coordinating the sharing of information
6 among the intelligence services of the countries par-
7 ticipating in the Commission, to the extent prac-
8 ticable, to identify immediate threats and inform the
9 security services of such countries.

10 (5) Creating guidelines for the coordination of
11 multilateral direct action against shared threats.

12 (c) CHAIR; MEMBERSHIP.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
14 chaired by the Secretary of State and shall include
15 as members—

16 (A) the Secretary of the Treasury;

17 (B) the Secretary of Energy;

18 (C) the Secretary of Defense; and

19 (D) the Director of National Intelligence.

20 (2) COUNTERPART MEMBERS.—The Secretary
21 of State shall encourage participation of relevant
22 counterparts in the governments of the participating
23 countries.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
3 essary to carry out the activities of the Commission.

4 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC**
5 **PLANNING.**

6 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
7 United States—

8 (1) to continue to maintain robust and multi-
9 faceted diplomatic engagement in the Indo-Asia Pa-
10 cific region, to include the promotion of United
11 States values and United States economic interests
12 alongside a strong United States military posture;
13 and

14 (2) that the tools of diplomacy and develop-
15 ment, along with defense as critical tools of national
16 power, should be used to enhance the national secu-
17 rity of the United States, promote United States in-
18 terests reassure United States allies, deter aggres-
19 sion, and respond swiftly to crises.

20 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that the Secretary of State should conduct com-
22 prehensive regional and global diplomacy, in close coordi-
23 nation with United States allies in the Indo Asia Pacific
24 Region, to coordinate responses to North Korean provo-

1 cations and enhance enforcement of United Nations Secu-
2 rity Council resolutions.

3 (c) ENHANCED PORTS OF CALL.—The Secretary of
4 Defense is authorized, in consultation with Secretary of
5 State, to conduct routine and enhanced ports of call with
6 key allies in the Indo-Asia Pacific region.

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