

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5226

To direct the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a university affiliated research center to conduct research and analysis on multipolar deterrence and escalation dynamics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 18, 2023

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a university affiliated research center to conduct research and analysis on multipolar deterrence and escalation dynamics.

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 “Multipolar Deterrence
5 Research and Analysis Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON MULTIPOLAR DETER-**
2 **RENCE AND ESCALATION DYNAMICS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
5 shall seek to enter into an agreement with a university
6 affiliated research center with expertise in strategic deter-
7 rence to conduct research and analysis on multipolar de-
8 terrence and escalation dynamics.

9 (b) ELEMENTS.—The research and analysis con-
10 ducted under subsection (a) shall include assessment of
11 the following:

12 (1) Implications for strategic deterrence and al-
13 lied assurance given the emergence of a second near-
14 peer nuclear power.

15 (2) Potential alternative conventional, strategic,
16 and nuclear force structures to optimize deterrence
17 of two near- peer nuclear powers.

18 (3) The contribution made by countervailing
19 nonstrategic capabilities to strategic deterrence.

20 (4) Escalation patterns arising from Russia's
21 Strategic Operations to Destroy Critically Important
22 Targets operational concept and response options for
23 the United States.

24 (5) Multilateral efforts that could contribute to
25 multipolar strategic deterrence and escalation dy-
26 namics.

1 (6) Capabilities and operations sufficient to as-
2 sure European and Pacific allies.

3 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1,
5 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the
6 congressional defense committees a report that in-
7 cludes the results of the research and analysis con-
8 ducted under subsection (a).

9 (2) FORM.—The report under paragraph (1)
10 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
11 clude a classified annex.

12 (d) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
13 FINED.—In this section, the term “congressional defense
14 committees” has the meaning given that term in section
15 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.

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