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H. RES. 951

Impeaching Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of Defense, for high crimes
and misdemeanors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2024

Mr. ROSENDALE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Impeaching Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of Defense,
for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 *Resolved*, That Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of
2 Defense, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors
3 and that the following articles of impeachment be exhib-
4 ited to the United States Senate:

5 Article of impeachment exhibited by the House of
6 Representatives of the United States of America in the
7 name of itself and of the people of the United States of
8 America, against Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of
9 Defense, in maintenance and support of its impeachment
10 against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 Article 1.—Lloyd James Austin III, in his conduct
2 as Secretary of Defense, has acted contrary to the trust
3 and duty of an Officer of the United States and has de-
4 graded the honor of the United States by providing aid
5 to its enemies:

6 Secretary Austin took an oath to support and defend
7 the Constitution of the United States against all enemies,
8 foreign and domestic, when he was sworn in as Secretary
9 of Defense on January 22, 2021.

10 Secretary Austin failed to uphold his oath of office
11 when he allowed a Chinese high-altitude balloon to fly over
12 North American airspace unimpeded from January 28 to
13 February 4, 2023:

14 (1) Secretary Austin’s failure to demolish or ob-
15 struct the balloon when it was first detected resulted
16 in the balloon hovering over Malmstrom Air Force
17 base, which is one of three U.S. military sites that
18 houses intercontinental ballistic missiles.

19 (2) Secretary Austin failed to meet the duties
20 of his office by either willfully ignoring available re-
21 ports or failing to investigate the properties of an
22 enemy balloon over U.S. military bases: in the
23 months following the incident it was widely reported
24 that the balloon had the ability to capture images
25 and transmit signals despite initial statements from

1 the Pentagon. Whether Secretary Austin knowingly
2 or unknowingly allowed an enemy to collect data on
3 U.S. military bases, his conduct proves him unfit for
4 Office and shows a dereliction of duty.

5 (3) Despite the balloon being tracked by the
6 Pentagon when it entered Montana air space on
7 January 31, 2023, Secretary Austin did not order
8 the balloon to be intercepted. Moreover, Secretary
9 Austin did not organize a briefing for Members of
10 Congress until the presence of a Chinese balloon was
11 publicly reported and Secretary Austin has never
12 spoken directly to the American people impacted.

13 (4) In the months to come, under the direction
14 of Secretary Austin, Pentagon officials lied to the
15 American people about the incident and the dangers
16 posed to the United States. It was reported in De-
17 cember of 2023 that the Chinese balloon used a U.S.
18 internet service provider to transmit data and that
19 the Biden Administration intended to stay silent had
20 American citizens not reported the balloon.

21 As a result of Secretary Austin's failure to act, an
22 enemy of the United States was allowed to access and
23 transmit data and images, threatening American national
24 security.

1 Secretary Austin showed a dereliction of duty by fail-
2 ing to promptly investigate, disclose, and eliminate a clear
3 and present threat to the United States.

4 Secretary Austin acted contrary to the trust and duty
5 of the Office of Secretary of Defense in endangering
6 American national security and speaking dishonestly. Sec-
7 retary Austin repeated falsehoods not to protect U.S. in-
8 terests, as they had already been compromised, but to mis-
9 lead the American people.

10 Secretary Austin has degraded the honor of the
11 United States by making its sensitive military data avail-
12 able to our enemies with severely delayed recourse.

13 In all this, Secretary Austin has shown himself unfit
14 for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In endangering
15 U.S. national security and lying to the American people,
16 he has violated his oath of office and committed high
17 crimes and misdemeanors.

18 Wherefore, Secretary Lloyd James Austin III, by
19 such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, removal
20 from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any of-
21 fice of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

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