

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 344

Urging all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to spend a minimum of 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Urging all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to spend a minimum of 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense.

Whereas, in 2006, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (commonly known as “NATO”) first agreed to spend 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense;

Whereas, in 2014 at the NATO Summit in Wales, all member countries once again committed to maintain or move toward meeting the 2-percent defense spending minimum within 10 years;

Whereas, by 2022, only 11 member countries met the 2-percent minimum, including the United States and the United Kingdom, which were the only 2 major economies;

Whereas many member countries issued statements pledging to meet the 2-percent minimum following the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, yet many member countries are projected to not reach the minimum until as late as 2035; and

Whereas, despite increased spending by some member countries, the United States, which accounts for more than 50 percent of the combined gross domestic product of NATO, ultimately pays 70 percent of the combined defense expenditures of NATO: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) agrees that the lack of sufficient progress  
3       towards 2-percent gross domestic product defense  
4       spending by member countries of the North Atlantic  
5       Treaty Organization (commonly known as “NATO”)  
6       is politically and economically unsustainable;

7               (2) views the failure of many of United States  
8       allies, including some of the largest member coun-  
9       tries of NATO, to meet the 2-percent defense spend-  
10      ing minimum has the potential—

11              (A) to undermine support for NATO by  
12      the people of the United States;

13              (B) to severely limit the ability of countries  
14      in Europe to contribute to a shared interest in  
15      defending against the Russian Federation; and

1 (C) to become a source of long-term insta-  
2 bility in Europe and frustration for taxpayers  
3 in the United States;

4 (3) commends member countries, such as the  
5 United Kingdom, Germany, and France, whose indi-  
6 vidual contributions constitute 10 percent or more of  
7 the NATO direct funding and programs budget;

8 (4) commends member countries that have con-  
9 tributed significant weapons and equipment at sub-  
10 stantial individual cost in support of Ukraine  
11 against the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and the  
12 morally reprehensible destruction of civilian lives and  
13 infrastructure by the Russian Federation;

14 (5) commends member countries, such as  
15 Greece, the United Kingdom, Finland, Poland, Esto-  
16 nia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia,  
17 that have taken strides to either meet or exceed the  
18 spending commitment; and

19 (6) urges all member countries to prioritize de-  
20 fense spending and to meet their obligations to  
21 NATO.

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