

173rd CONGRESS

S.3

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 2024

Introduced by Sen. Pluribus, for themselves, Sen. Emperio.

A BILL

To authorize a significant contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, reaffirming U.S. commitment to collective defense and encouraging allied support.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Transatlantic Readiness to Optimize NATO Growth Act” or the STRONG Act.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

Congress finds that —

- (a) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereafter referred to as “NATO”), formally established by the North Atlantic Treaty which entered into force on April 4, 1949, between the United States and the other founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has been a cornerstone of international peace and stability, playing a vital role in U.S. national security and serving as a deterrent against adversaries and external threats.
- (b) NATO is one of the most successful military alliances in history, deterring the outbreak of a major world conflict, protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its members, and concluding the Cold War peacefully.

(c) NATO continues to be at the center of U.S. foreign policy to promote a prosperous, free, and peaceful Europe.

(d) The United States is firmly committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's principle of collective defense, pursuant to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

(e) The Senate and the House of Representatives—

(i) condemn any threat to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, freedom, and democracy of any NATO ally;

(ii) strongly support collaboration with NATO allies to condemn and counter unprovoked aggression in the Strait of Hormuz by the Russian Federation;

(iii) recognize the advantages that multinational training exercises and joint research and education programs with NATO allies have offered for interoperability and readiness;

(iv) acknowledge the necessity of substantial financial investment to enhance NATO's administrative infrastructure, armament procurement, modernization efforts, and joint military operations, ensuring the alliance remains capable of addressing current and future threats;

(v) support the joint statement by President Emperio and President Emmanuel Macron, in which both leaders commit to making matching financial investments into NATO; and

(vi) pursuant to section 3, authorize a substantial funding injection, encouraging other NATO allies to reciprocate with similar commitments.

SEC. 3. APPROVAL OF NATO FUNDING.

(a) In addition to funds otherwise available, there is to be appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain until expended, the amount of \$10,000,000,000 for the Department of State under "Contributions to International Organizations", specifically for the purpose of making a one-time voluntary contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to support—

(i) administrative costs;

(ii) armament procurement and modernization efforts;

(iii) joint military operations; and

(iv) other agreed-upon activities.

(b) The Secretary of State is authorized to incur obligations and make expenditures out of the funds appropriated by this Act for the purposes specified in subsection (a). No obligations shall

be incurred, no expenditures made out of the funds appropriated by this Act, until it has been certified by the Secretary of State that at least two thirds (67%) of NATO member states have met the NATO defense expenditure threshold for the Fiscal Year 2024, or have made commitments in writing to the Secretary of State that the member state will meet the NATO defense expenditure threshold for the Fiscal Year 2025.

(c) The Secretary of State shall, no later than 45 days after the passage of this Act, submit a report to the Committee on the House, Ethics, and Oversight of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Relations of the Senate, detailing the expenditure of funds appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 4. SUPREMACY.

Any existing provisions of law that contradict this Act shall be considered null and void for the purposes of interpreting this legislation.

SEC. 5. ENACTMENT.

EFFECTIVE DATE.— The provisions of this Act shall come into force upon passage.