

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Recognizing the importance of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea on October 1, 1953.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea on October 1, 1953.

Whereas, on October 1, 1953, the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 U.S.T. 2368) was signed in Washington, D.C., to which the Senate provided its advice and consent to ratification on January 26, 1954;

Whereas the shared commitment to recognize an armed attack on either of the Parties as dangerous to the peace and security of the other and to “act to meet the com-

mon danger in accordance with [each party's] constitutional processes" remains in place today;

Whereas the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations on May 22, 1882, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation, and the United States reestablished its diplomatic relationship with the "Republic of Korea" on March 25, 1949;

Whereas, in 2023, the United States-Republic of Korea alliance marks 70 years since the cessation of hostilities in the Korean War and the signing of the Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which remains in place today and neither formally ended the Korean War nor constituted a permanent settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is the linchpin of peace, security, and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific region and is essential to confronting the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK);

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is rooted in mutual trust, shared sacrifice, common values, economic interests, and generations of people-to-people ties that provide a foundation for one of the strongest, most interoperable, and enduring bilateral alliances in the world;

Whereas the United States assures its ironclad security commitment to the Republic of Korea, including the United States extended deterrent underpinned by the full range of United States capabilities, including nuclear capabilities;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance was forged in shared sacrifice, with 1,789,000 United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines serving during the Korean War, of whom 36,574 paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives in defense of the Republic of Korea, including 7,174 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) soldiers, and the over 7,500 members of the United States Armed Forces that remain classified by the Department of Defense as missing in action;

Whereas casualties of the Republic of Korea were more than 217,000 soldiers killed, more than 291,000 wounded, and over 1,000,000 civilians killed or missing;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has since its founding become a thriving democracy with a vibrant press and commitment to the rule of law and a free market economy;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea Security Consultative Meeting met on November 3, 2022, in Washington, D.C. and “shared their common understanding that the U.S.-ROK Alliance is based on the same principles and shared values including: mutual trust, freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law”;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea are committed to pursuing closely coordinated diplomatic efforts through a shared strategy to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the Republic of Korea’s 2022 Strategy for a Free, Peaceful, and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region emphasizes its desire to be a global pivotal state that commits “to working with other key nations both within and beyond

the region to foster a free and peaceful region . . . while strengthening the rules-based international order”;

Whereas President Yoon Suk Yeol took the courageous and bold step of announcing that the Government of the Republic of Korea would compensate Korean victims of Japanese wartime labor in order to facilitate the resolution of an issue that has hampered cooperation with Japan;

Whereas a robust and effective trilateral relationship between and among the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan is critical for joint security and interests in defending freedom and democracy, upholding human rights, promoting peace, security, and the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific and across the globe, championing women’s empowerment, and combating and adapting to complex environmental challenges;

Whereas the American and Korean people share deeply rooted values of defending freedom, championing economic development, upholding human rights, and respecting the rule of law;

Whereas the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan have held a series of trilateral meetings, including a trilateral leaders’ summit on November 13, 2022, a Foreign Ministers’ meeting on September 23, 2022, and a vice ministerial meeting on February 13, 2023, at which the three countries committed to continuing trilateral exercises on ballistic missile defense and anti-submarine warfare, and further determined to explore new areas of security cooperation, including sharing DPRK missile warning data in real time;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is the United States’ seventh largest goods trading partner with \$162,900,000,000 in

total (two-way) goods trade and \$31,500,000,000 in total services trade for a combined \$194,400,000,000 in 2021, and is one of the United States top sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which totaled \$110,600,000,000 in 2021 and, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, South Korea multinational enterprises (MNEs) in the United States employed almost 84,000 employees in 2020;

Whereas the strength of the United States-Republic of Korea relationship is due in large part to the approximately 2,500,000 Korean Americans that have made significant contributions to every facet of American society and leadership to now include four members of the House of Representatives: Andy Kim of New Jersey, Young Kim of California, Marilyn Strickland of Washington, and Michelle Steel of California; and

Whereas, in April 2023, President Yoon Suk Yeol will visit the United States at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) welcomes President Yoon Suk Yeol to the
3 United States and urges both sides to use the occa-
4 sion of this state visit to further deepen the close se-
5 curity, economic, and people-to-people ties between
6 our nations;

7 (2) reaffirms the importance of the United
8 States-Republic of Korea alliance as the linchpin to
9 safeguarding peace, security, and prosperity on the

1 Korean Peninsula and a critical component of peace
2 in the Indo-Pacific region;

3 (3) reaffirms the United States' extended deter-
4 rence commitments to the Republic of Korea and
5 that the United States will continue to ensure that
6 its policy and posture reflects the requirements of
7 extended deterrence;

8 (4) supports ongoing efforts to further
9 strengthen, broaden, and deepen the ironclad United
10 States-Republic of Korea alliance, including the
11 United States-Republic of Korea Foreign and De-
12 fense Ministerial Meeting (2+2), the Security Con-
13 sultative Meeting, and the Extended Deterrence
14 Strategy and Consultation Group, to confront
15 threats to the peace and safety of both nations, and
16 to stand together for the common values and shared
17 interests that unite us;

18 (5) calls for continued cooperation between the
19 Governments of the United States and the Republic
20 of Korea in the promotion of human rights;

21 (6) supports the Republic of Korea's engage-
22 ment in regional diplomacy, including the launching
23 of the ROK-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative, the Repub-
24 lic of Korea's participation in the Minerals Security
25 Partnership, its joining of the Partners in the Blue

1 Pacific, and its hosting of a summit with Pacific Is-
2 land nations;

3 (7) endorses further Republic of Korea engage-
4 ment with Quad initiatives;

5 (8) calls for close coordination to achieve the
6 denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic
7 of Korea and the establishment of a permanent and
8 lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula;

9 (9) encourages close cooperation among the
10 United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan to
11 address shared challenges; and

12 (10) recognizes the deep partnership forged
13 over 70 years since the signing of the Mutual De-
14 fense Treaty that has underpinned security for both
15 countries, established a durable trust, undergirded
16 the free and open order in the Indo-Pacific, and
17 demonstrated the benefits of robust democracies on
18 both sides of the Pacific.