
Reforming U.S. Engagement in NATO

Washington will play host to this year's NATO Summit from July 9-11. As NATO turns 75, European capitals have long-since grown accustomed to U.S.-subsidized security – an arrangement which allows Europe to dictate policy without shouldering the risks or the majority of the costs. Washington has perpetuated poor alliance behavior out of deference to the “rules-based international order.” On the sidelines, NATO's expansionist aims and escalatory rhetoric knowingly walk right up to Russian redlines. Ukraine also continues to be a thorn in the alliance's side – demanding funds, weapons, and to be covered by the NATO nuclear umbrella. Worse, the Biden administration continues to acquiesce, recently inking a 10-year security agreement with Ukraine that sidesteps the Constitution and paves the way for future NATO membership.

Congress must remind the alliance – and the Biden administration – that it is the body with the power to make treaties, extend NATO membership, and conduct oversight. With NATO in Washington, on our soil, Congress has the opportunity demand equitable burden sharing and make clear that membership for Ukraine cannot be on the table.

Schedule of Introductions

Sen. Lee intends to introduce and message on a series of bills during the NATO Summit in DC:

July 9: Resolution Opposing Security Guarantees for Ukraine

- Condemns the Biden administration's 10-year bilateral security agreement with Ukraine; states that the agreement has no force of law without Senate ratification; and rejects the agreement as a “bridge” to Ukraine's NATO membership
- This resolution was introduced on June 20, but Sen. Lee will likely ask for unanimous consent and invites additional cosponsors

July 10: Prohibition on Ukraine NATO Membership

- Amends the Mutual Security Act of 1954 to state that beginning an accession process for Ukraine will be grounds for immediate U.S. withdrawal from NATO

July 11: Allied Burden Sharing Report Act & NATO Burden Sharing Report Act

- The Allied Burden Sharing Report Act requires DOD to prepare an annual report on the defense spending of all 59 U.S. allies – including defense spending as a nominal figure and percentage of GDP; description of how each country will contribute to military operations in accordance with the cooperative defense agreement to which they are a party; and any limitations placed on the use of such contributions
- The NATO Burden Sharing Report Act applies only to NATO member countries and includes all of the above reporting requirements plus a description of each member's hard vs. soft power contributions for Ukraine; defense industrial base health; defense industrial base comparative advantages; size and structure of armed forces; any areas where the country would be fully reliant on allied assets; FMS deliveries or contracts in the previous year; any change in defense spending over the previous year; and anticipated future spending

For more information concerning this bill or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Katherine Thompson (katherine_thompson@lee.senate.gov) or Karina Mariotti (karina_mariotti@lee.senate.gov) in Senator Lee's office.