



HR0824

LRB097 20668 GRL 66755 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The United States of America was attacked in a  
3 well-coordinated operation by a group of terrorists on  
4 September 11, 2001; and

5           WHEREAS, Almost 3,000 innocent men, women, and children  
6 were killed as a result of the airplanes that were hijacked by  
7 the terrorists and subsequently crashed into the World Trade  
8 Center, the Pentagon, and an open field in Shanksville,  
9 Pennsylvania; and

10           WHEREAS, The terrorists were proven to be members of the  
11 terrorist organization known as al-Qaeda, which was lead by  
12 Osama bin Laden; and

13           WHEREAS, The al-Qaeda terrorist organization had operated  
14 for years from sanctuary locations based in Afghanistan; the  
15 group conducted numerous acts of terror over the years against  
16 U.S. targets both on the U.S. mainland and in other locations  
17 throughout the world, which had been planned in those sanctuary  
18 locations; and

19           WHEREAS, In order to disrupt and destroy the al-Qaeda  
20 terrorist organization and capture or eliminate its leaders, it  
21 was necessary to attack the organization's sanctuary bases; and

1           WHEREAS, In October of 2001, the United States military,  
2 acting under orders issued by Commander-in-Chief President  
3 George W. Bush, attacked al-Qaeda sanctuary bases in  
4 Afghanistan in conjunction with local Afghan forces opposed to  
5 the terrorist organization operating in their country; and

6           WHEREAS, The United States military, in the finest  
7 traditions of America's fighting forces, had great success in  
8 disrupting, dispersing, and destroying al-Qaeda operations and  
9 eliminating many of its senior leaders; and

10           WHEREAS, President Barack Obama, succeeding President Bush  
11 as Commander-in-Chief, did continue and strengthen the efforts  
12 to completely destroy al-Qaeda; such efforts resulted in the  
13 killing of Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda, bringing  
14 the world's leading terrorist to justice for the many acts of  
15 murder which he and his organization carried out; and

16           WHEREAS, The United States, having joined forces with  
17 nations from around the world, led an effort to stabilize  
18 Afghanistan by supporting infrastructure projects beneficial  
19 to all Afghans and by helping the Afghans understand the  
20 positive benefits of equal rights for all, judicial due  
21 process, and the rule of law; and

1           WHEREAS, After more than a decade of extended military  
2 operations to enhance security and with contributions of  
3 hundreds of billions of dollars of nation-building resources  
4 having been put into the country to foster development, much  
5 progress has been made toward the goals of a free and secure  
6 society within Afghanistan; and

7           WHEREAS, While this progress has come at a high financial  
8 cost, it has also cost the lives of more than 1,500 brave  
9 Americans service members and dozens of fighting forces of  
10 other nations, all of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in  
11 service to their country; and

12           WHEREAS, Despite this progress, it appears from recent  
13 events involving all the International Security Assistance  
14 Forces (ISAF) that the presence of the United States military  
15 and that of other countries, as well as the civilian  
16 consultants that are working to help the Afghan people, has not  
17 been accepted by a broad spectrum of the Afghanistan  
18 population; and

19           WHEREAS, This lack of acceptance places all foreign  
20 military and civilian consultant personnel in grave danger,  
21 which results in an inability for those personnel to properly  
22 conduct the types of operations in which they are engaged; and

1           WHEREAS, There is already in place a plan to withdraw most  
2 forces from Afghanistan in the 2014 time frame; therefore, be  
3 it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we urge the President and Congress to begin an expedited  
7 withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan, thus accelerating the  
8 current withdrawal plan set in place; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent  
10 to the President, the Speaker of the United States House of  
11 Representatives, and the President pro tempore of the United  
12 States Senate.