

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To express the Sense of Congress on support for coordinated action to ensure the security of Baltic allies.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 4049**

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY)

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 **SEC. 1242. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUPPORT FOR COORDI-**  
4 **NATED ACTION TO ENSURE THE SECURITY**  
5 **OF BALTIC ALLIES.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) the continued security of the Baltic states  
8 of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania is critical to  
9 achieving United States national security interests

1 and defense objectives against the acute and formi-  
2 dable threat posed by Russia;

3 (2) the United States and the Baltic states are  
4 leaders in the mission of defending independence  
5 and democracy from aggression and in promoting  
6 stability and security within the North Atlantic  
7 Treaty Organization (NATO), with non-NATO part-  
8 ners, and with other international organizations such  
9 as the European Union;

10 (3) the Baltic states are model NATO allies in  
11 terms of burden sharing and capital investment in  
12 materiel critical to United States and allied security,  
13 investment of over 2 percent of their gross domestic  
14 product on defense expenditure, allocating over 20  
15 percent of their defense budgets on capital mod-  
16 ernization, matching security assistance from the  
17 United States, frequently deploying their forces  
18 around the world in support of allied and United  
19 States objectives, and sharing diplomatic, technical,  
20 military, and analytical expertise on defense and se-  
21 curity matters;

22 (4) the United States should continue to  
23 strengthen bilateral and multilateral defense by,  
24 with, and through allied nations, particularly those

1       that possess expertise and dexterity but do not enjoy  
2       the benefits of national economies of scale;

3               (5) the United States should pursue a dedicated  
4       initiative focused on defense and security assistance,  
5       coordination, and planning designed to ensure the  
6       continued security of the Baltic states and on deter-  
7       ring current and future challenges to the national  
8       sovereignty of United States allies and partners in  
9       the Baltic region; and

10              (6) such an initiative should include an innova-  
11       tive and comprehensive conflict deterrence strategy  
12       for the Baltic region encompassing the unique geog-  
13       raphy of the Baltic states, modern and diffuse  
14       threats to their land, sea, and air spaces, and nec-  
15       essary improvements to their defense posture, in-  
16       cluding command-and-control infrastructure, intel-  
17       ligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities,  
18       communications equipment and networks, and spe-  
19       cial forces.