

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. _____

To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within
or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on _____

JOINT RESOLUTION

To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from
hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been
authorized by Congress.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Congress has the sole power to declare war
6 under article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United
7 States Constitution.

8 (2) Congress has not yet declared war upon
9 Venezuela or any person or organization within Ven-

1 ezuela, nor enacted a specific statutory authorization
2 for use of military force within or against Venezuela.

3 (3) United States Armed Forces actions within
4 or against Venezuela, within the meaning of section
5 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C.
6 1543(a)), are either hostilities or a situation where
7 imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indi-
8 cated by the circumstances into which United States
9 Armed Forces have been introduced.

10 (4) The publicly reported authorization for the
11 Central Intelligence Agency to conduct covert lethal
12 operations within Venezuela, the significant aug-
13 mentation of United States Armed Forces assets,
14 personnel, and operations in proximity to Venezuela,
15 and statements from United States Government offi-
16 cials regarding planning for ground strikes within
17 Venezuela indicate imminent involvement of United
18 States Armed Forces in hostilities within or against
19 Venezuela.

20 (5) The question of whether United States
21 forces should be engaged in hostilities within or
22 against Venezuela should be answered following a
23 full briefing to Congress and the American public of
24 the issues at stake, a public debate in Congress, and

1 a congressional vote as contemplated by the Con-
2 stitution.

3 (6) Section 1013 of the Department of State
4 Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50
5 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or
6 bill to require the removal of United States Armed
7 Forces from imminent engagement in hostilities
8 without a declaration of war or specific statutory au-
9 thorization shall be considered in accordance with
10 the expedited procedures of section 601(b) of the
11 International Security and Arms Export Control Act
12 of 1976.

13 **SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF THE USE OF UNITED STATES**
14 **FORCES FOR HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR**
15 **AGAINST VENEZUELA.**

16 (a) TERMINATION.—Pursuant to section 1013 of the
17 Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years
18 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a), and in accordance with
19 the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Secu-
20 rity Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976,
21 Congress hereby directs the President to terminate the use
22 of United States Armed Forces for hostilities within or
23 against Venezuela, unless explicitly authorized by a dec-
24 laration of war or specific authorization for use of military
25 force.

1 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion shall be construed to prevent the United States from
3 defending itself from an armed attack or threat of an im-
4 minent armed attack.