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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC**

November 5, 2007

**Become an original cosponsor of Congress's  
commitment to sufficiently fund America's  
warfighters**

**Commit a minimum of 4 percent of our GDP to the base defense budget  
to meet the National security requirements of the United States**

Dear Colleague:

It is our solemn duty to ensure our warfighters have sufficient monetary support to meet the National security requirements of the United States. The United States is engaged in a long war and the operational theater is unfortunately expanding. This is why we must set aside an absolute minimum of 4 percent of our Nation's income to defense.

Our economy cannot afford NOT to secure a strong and stable defense. The economy took a hit upwards of \$1 trillion on the tragic day of September 11, 2001 and every time we have appeared militarily weak, the enemy has struck and cost us in blood and bounty. It is critical that we ensure a stable environment so our economy can flourish and we can consistently balance our budget.

By 1980, it became widely accepted that the U.S. military had a "hollow force", meaning it looked functional but it was devastatingly under funded. It was not a coincidence that at this time the Soviets invaded Afghanistan and Iranians seized the American embassy in Tehran. It was also not a coincidence when Ronald Reagan secured increases in defense spending that the morale of troops skyrocketed, training for warfighters improved, the Department of Defense (DoD) recapitalized its platforms, America defeated the Soviet Union, and enjoyed peace and economic prosperity afterwards. ---*Weakness is provocative and the best way to propagate peace is through a coherent and principled foreign policy and a strong, stable military capability.*

It should be this Nation's policy to provide our warfighters with a budget that is proactive in anticipating future threats and challenges, and not merely reactive to threats that suddenly emerge. Since the end of the Cold War, demands on our warfighters-- Active Duty, Reserve and Guard-- have increased while the size of our forces have decreased. Despite this discouraging trend, the defense budget is scheduled to drop from 3.8 percent (Heritage Foundation's number, whereas the DoD estimates we are at 4.2 percent of GDP) in the coming years to just 3.2 percent of GDP by 2012.

Please join me in cosponsoring a resolution, which states it is the policy of the United States to commit a minimum of 4 percent of the Nation's GDP to the base defense budget in order to meet the National security requirements of the United States.

For more information or to become a co-sponsor, contact the military legislative assistant in my office, [Rebecca.Ramey@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Ramey@mail.house.gov).

Most sincerely,

  
Trent Franks  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Admiral Mike Mullen**, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: "I think as a country we're just going to have to devote more resources to national security in the world that we're living in right now." On a defense budget of four percent of GDP... "I would see that in the future as an absolute floor."

**The Military Coalition**: "Dear Mr. Franks, the Military Coalition, a consortium of 33 nationally prominent military and veteran organizations, representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors... wholeheartedly endorse your resolution that would support a base defense budget floor of four percent of gross domestic product."

**Mackenzie Eaglen**, The Heritage Foundation: "America's economy is so powerful, however, after years of underfunding military procurement that the U.S. could recapitalize and sustain military strength by increasing and maintaining defense spending at 4 percent of GDP. This policy, called the "Four Percent for Freedom" solution, would ensure that America's military remains capable and ready."  
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/sr18.cfm>

**Senator Jim Talent**: "By adopting the "4% for Freedom Solution," our leaders can show that for once they have learned the lessons of the past. There never will be a war that ends all wars; history has shown that, even in years where threats do not seem immediate, the dangers remain—and only the reality and perception of American power can deter them from breaking out."  
<http://nrd.nationalreview.com/article/?q=Yjc5NTQ5YzE5MDFjZDE5ZWU4NjZmODk0YmVmOTY2MDA=>