

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERTS

FOR THE

2ND AND FINAL SESSION OF THE 116TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS

JANUARY 3, 2019 – JANUARY 3, 2021

(A) Resolution Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Katyń Massacre

Following the good work of Andrzej Burghardt, this Senate bill has finally been graced by having been assigned its own distinctive *bill or public law number* as described on the Senate website (“You need a bill or public law number to check the status or request a copy of legislation. Numbers consist of an alphabetic abbreviation, for the branch of Congress that originated the legislation, and the bill type, plus a unique number.”). The delay in assigning said number comes as no surprise given the Covid-19 pandemic-triggered national health and economic crisis confronting our great nation that fully demands the attention, sustained vigilance and combative engagement of our federal and state governments, as well as our own personal initiatives, on a daily basis.

Under normal circumstances, this bill would have been referred from the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to one of its 7 sub-committees, that very likely being, in this case, the Sub-Committee on Europe and Security Cooperation.

Of the *full* Committee’s 22 members, including 2 members representing NJ, all 13 (59%) of whose names appear on the next page in bold print, represent states in which we have both formal state Divisions (CT, DE, FL, IN, MA, MD, NH, NJ, OH, VA, and WI) and a slowly-evolving special relationship (TX).

Of the Sub-Committee’s 11 members, including 2 members representing NJ, all 7 (64%) of whose names appear in *italicized* bold print, represent Polish American Congress states as noted. By calling *all* 13 members in bold and italicized print, everyone on the full Foreign Relations Committee representing our PAC states is covered, except those listed in #2 who must be called as well.

THIS IS A “SIMPLE” RESOLUTION. THUS, OUR OBJECTIVE MUST INVOLVE

CONTACTING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE SENATORS IN #1, AND THOSE IN #2 FROM OUR STATES WHO, IN THE CASE OF THE LATTER, DO NOT SERVE ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

To convince the 13 *full* Foreign Relations Committee members representing Polish American Congress states to submit said Katyń Massacre Resolution bill back to the 100-member United States Senate with a favorable vote, note:

1. After placing your calls to their offices in Washington, DC, and providing your name and address, you should, *to the point*, state: **“As one of the Senator’s Polish American voting constituents, I personally ask for his / her vote for passage of S. RES. 566, being the work of Senators Menendez, Risch and Durbin titled: “Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Katyń Massacre.”**

MAJORITY MEMBERS OF THE FULL COMMITTEE

Risch, James E. (ID), *Chairman*

Rubio, Marco (FL) (202) 224-3041

Johnson, Ron (WI) (202) 224-5323

Gardner, Cory (CO)

Romney, Mitt (UT)

Graham, Lindsey (SC)

Barrasso, John (WY)

Portman, Rob (OH) (202) 224-3353

Paul, Rand (KY)

Young, Todd (IN) (202) 224-5623

Cruz, Ted (TX) (202) 224-5922

Perdue, David (GA)

MINORITY MEMBERS OF THE FULL COMMITTEE

Menendez, Robert (NJ), Ranking Member (202) 224-4744

Cardin, Benjamin L. (MD) (202) 224-4524

Shaheen, Jeanne (NH) (202) 224-2841

Coons, Christopher A. (DE) (202) 224-5042

Udall, Tom (NM)

Murphy, Christopher (CT) (202) 224-4041

Kaine, Tim (VA) (202) 224-4024

Markey, Edward J. (MA) (202) 224-2742

Merkley, Jeff (OR)

Booker, Cory A. (NJ) (202) 224-3224

Sponsor: No need to call.

2. To convince the United States Senate to pass this bill where *all* remaining Senators in our Polish American Congress states, including those Senators not serving on the Foreign Relations Committee, *should be contacted as well*. They are:

AZ = Kyrsten Sinema	(202) 224-4521
AZ = Martha McSally	(202) 224-2235
CA = Diane Feinstein	(202) 224-3841
CA = Kamala Harris	(202) 224-3553
CT = Richard Blumenthal	(202) 224-2823
DE = Thomas Carper	(202) 224-2441
FL = Rick Scott	(202) 224-5274
IL = Richard J. Durbin	(202) 224-2152
IL = Tammy Duckworth	(202) 224-2854
IN = Todd Young	(202) 224-5623
IN = Mike Braun	(202) 224-4814
MA = Elizabeth Warren	(202) 224-4543
MA = Edward J. Markey	(202) 224-2742
MD = Chris Van Hollen	(202) 224-4654
MI = Debbie Stabenow	(202) 224-4822
MI = Gary C. Peters	(202) 224-6221
MO = Roy Blunt	(202) 224-5721
MO = Josh Hawley	(202) 224-6154
NH = Margaret Wood Hassan	(202) 224-3324
NJ = Cory L. Booker	(202) 224-3224
NY = Kirsten Gillibrand	(202) 224-4451
NY = Charles Schumer	(202) 224-6542
OH = Sherrod Brown	(202) 224-2315
PA = Robert Casey	(202) 224-6324
PA = Patrick Toomey	(202) 224-4524
RI = Jack Reed	(202) 224-4642
RI = Sheldon Whitehouse	(202) 224-2921
TX = John Cornyn	(202) 224-2934
VA = Mark Warner	(202) 224-2023
VA = Tim Kaine	(202) 224-4024
WI = Tammy Baldwin	(202) 224-5653

Sponsor: No need to call.

(B) H. Res. 672 (The three Seas Initiative).

This very worthy and highly important legislation for Poland, as well as for other involved nations of Eastern Europe, that provides for energy security and

related infrastructure independent of the Russian Federation, has been a victim of two factors which it had been unable to overcome: (1) it had been introduced late in the 1st Session of the current 116th United States Congress, and (2) soon after the 2nd Session began on January 3, 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic began its deadly advance into the continental United States.

As of this date, H. Res. 672 has only attracted 39 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, the last two having been on March 31. Sorry to say, it appears that it is doomed to “die in committee.” If not, and by way of a miracle, it is passed, then it would have to attract *equivalent* legislation in the Senate involving referral to and approval by the appropriate Senate Sub-Committee and full Committee no later than January 3, 2021 when the 116th Congress is concluded, so to prevent the culmination of which would be to “die in committee” of the Senate. Such legislation in the Senate doesn’t exist.

However, all is not lost. Under new legislative circumstances at the end of this current calendar year and that of the 116th United States Congress as well, the Polish American Congress *should and must plan* to have the same “Three Seas Initiative” legislation re-introduced on January 3, 2021 when the new **117th United States Congress (January 3, 2021 – January 3, 2023)** begins its 1st Session, thus giving “Three Seas Initiative” legislation a realistic fighting chance for success, provided:

- The Polish American Congress re-enlists the same original sponsor and co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, adding new co-sponsors as well, and
- The Polish American Congress attracts a first-time sponsor and first-time co-sponsors for a concurrent version in the Senate as well

So that both chambers will be able provide ample time over a period of two years, beginning on the first day of the 117th Congress, to get the job done, once and for all, with the *energetic supporting involvement* of the Polish American Congress, and other members of the Central and East European Coalition.

Updated / Submitted on May 12, 2020 to the Council of National Directors by:

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Vice President for American Affairs