

**Opening Remarks
Honorable Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
House Armed Services Committee**

**Floor Consideration of
H.R. 4350, National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2022**

September 21, 2021

Madame / Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. This year's NDAA was once again compiled and reported for consideration on the floor today in a bipartisan manner thanks to the leadership of Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Rogers as well as our Chairman of the Strategic Force Subcommittee, Jim Cooper. This bill is also the product of the diligent work of the Committee Staff who I would like to thank, including the Strategic Forces subcommittees' PSMs—Maria Vastola, Grant Schneider, Ryan Tully, Whitney Verrett, and Zach Taylor as well as the Committee's majority Staff Director, Paul Arcangeli, and minority Staff Director, Chris Vieson. Job well done.

Admiral Richard, the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, has told us we are facing a situation our nation has never encountered before: we must deter two peer nuclear-capable competitors simultaneously and each must be deterred differently. I am confident that the FY 2022 NDAA before us here today, places us on the right path to properly deter both Russia and China.

First and foremost, the bill increases topline defense spending by nearly \$25 billion—reversing the harmful and reckless cuts from the President’s Budget, ensuring an annual growth of 5 percent over the previous year, and funding the DoD’s most critical unfunded priorities.

Next, with one exception, the NDAA continues to fully fund programs within the Department of Defense and Department of Energy that modernize the nation’s nuclear triad and modernize the nuclear command, control, and communications systems. This is especially critical to maintaining a safe, secure, and reliable strategic deterrent while China is undergoing an unprecedented, crash nuclear build-up, and Russia is also undertaking significant modernization of all three legs of its triad. Also, both Russia and China are developing brand-new, novel nuclear delivery systems.

This NDAA fully funds capabilities necessary for the defense of Guam and prohibits the reduction of our ICBM inventory while simultaneously halting efforts to retire or reconvert our low-yield nuclear warheads, which are currently deployed in defense of our Nation. And this NDAA reverses President Biden’s detrimental and dangerous budgetary cuts to our missile defense systems.

Unfortunately, I recognize certain far-left member are going to try and cut money for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, our next generation ICBM system. However,

doing so would be a huge gift to Chairman Xi and President Putin. Without the land leg of the triad, China becomes a nuclear-peer overnight.

In addition to initiatives focused on countering the malign influence and global aggression of China and Russia as well as rogue nations such as Iran and North Korea, this bill bolsters our partners and allies and includes nearly \$120 billion in Research and Development funding for tomorrow's capabilities, including unprecedented levels of investment in emerging technologies, like AI, quantum computing, autonomous systems, and hypersonic.

Finally, the FY 22 NDAA includes over 20 bipartisan provisions to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its hasty and failed withdrawal from Afghanistan. In addition to multiple congressional oversight measures, the bill provides \$250 million for counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan, ensuring it never again becomes a safe haven for those who wish harm upon the United States and our allies.

Madame / Mr. Speaker, this NDAA enhances our national security and improves the lives of our service members, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

I yield back.