

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 287 Session of
 2017

INTRODUCED BY BERNSTINE, METCALFE, SACCONI, BAKER, SOLOMON,
BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO, RYAN, READSHAW, NELSON, KAUFFMAN,
MILLARD, TOEPEL, V. BROWN, WARD, SAYLOR, GROVE, COOK,
ROTHMAN, MOUL, D. COSTA AND GILLEN, APRIL 25, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 10, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the Syrian government's chemical weapons attack on
2 Khan Sheikhoun, Syria, and President Bashar al-Assad for
3 Syria's ongoing and historical use of chemical weapons
4 against the Syrian people; and urging the Congress of the
5 United States to consider and approve an authorization for
6 the use of military force to allow for additional military
7 action in Syria for the purpose of deterring further use of
8 chemical weapons in Syria and the world.

9 WHEREAS, On April 4, 2017, chemical weapons were used in an
10 attack that killed dozens of people, including children in Khan
11 Sheikhoun in Syria's Idlib province; and

12 WHEREAS, Initial reports suggest that the attack involved a
13 chemical nerve agent and autopsies on Syrians who died after
14 being brought to Turkey for treatment suggest sarin was used in
15 the attack; and

16 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization confirmed that some
17 survivors had symptoms consistent with exposure to a category of
18 chemicals that includes nerve agents; and

19 WHEREAS, The Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of

1 Chemical Weapons reports that it is in the process of gathering
2 and analyzing information on the attack from all available
3 sources; and

4 WHEREAS, On April 5, 2017, the United Nations Security
5 Council called an emergency meeting to discuss the chemical
6 weapons attack in Idlib province; and

7 WHEREAS, The reported use of chemical weapons in Idlib
8 province, if confirmed, would constitute the largest single
9 attack in Syria since 2013, the United Nations High
10 Representative for Disarmament Affairs told the United Nations
11 Security Council on April 5; and

12 WHEREAS, Syria has a history of using chemical weapons on its
13 citizens. An investigation by the United Nations and the
14 ~~Organization~~ ORGANISATION for the Prohibition of Chemical <--
15 Weapons found that Syrian government forces were responsible for
16 three chlorine gas attacks in 2014 and 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, On April 6, 2017, two destroyers, the ~~U.S.S. Porter~~ <--
18 U.S.S. PORTER and the U.S.S. Ross, fired 59 Tomahawk missiles at <--
19 the airfield in Syria from which the Assad regime is believed to
20 have conducted the April 4 chemical weapons attack; and

21 WHEREAS, On April 6, 2017, subsequent to the targeted air
22 strikes the President of the United States delivered a statement
23 to the American people in which the President decried the
24 barbaric nature of the attacks on Syrian civilians, including
25 children; and

26 WHEREAS, ~~The military action, the President said,~~ THE <--
27 PRESIDENT SAID, IT is in the "vital national security interest
28 of the United States to prevent and deter the spread and use of
29 deadly chemical weapons"; and

30 WHEREAS, The President added: "There can be no dispute that

1 Syria used banned chemical weapons, violated its obligations
2 under the Chemical Weapons Convention and ignored the urging of
3 the UN Security Council"; and

4 WHEREAS, Subsequent to the April 6 air strikes, there has
5 been public debate, as well as debate among members of the
6 Congress, regarding a possible authorization for the use of
7 military force to take additional military action against Syria;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, There is some disagreement among members of the
10 Congress as to whether additional military action should be
11 taken against Syria at this time; and

12 WHEREAS, A number of members of the Congress have opened the
13 door for a possible authorization for the ~~the~~ use of military <--
14 force, should the President bring such a proposal to the
15 Congress; and

16 WHEREAS, Chemical weapons are considered weapons of mass
17 destruction and their use in warfare is outlawed under the
18 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production,
19 Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their
20 Destruction, also known as the Chemical Weapons Convention; and

21 WHEREAS, The use of chemical weapons is considered morally
22 reprehensible given the extreme suffering that chemical weapons
23 can inflict on individuals who are exposed to them; therefore be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania condemn the Syrian government's
27 chemical weapons attack on Khan Sheikhoun, Syria, and President
28 Bashar al-Assad for Syria's ongoing and historical use of
29 chemical weapons against the Syrian people; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the

1 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
2 States to consider and approve an authorization for the use of
3 military force to allow for additional military action in Syria
4 for the purpose of deterring further use of chemical weapons in
5 Syria and the world; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
7 the President of the ~~Untied~~ UNITED States and to members of <--
8 Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation.