

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To prohibit the unauthorized use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities
with respect to Venezuela.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced
the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To prohibit the unauthorized use of United States Armed
Forces in hostilities with respect to Venezuela.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Prohibiting Unauthor-
5 ized Military Action in Venezuela Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED**
7 **FORCES TO CONDUCT HOSTILITIES WITH RE-**
8 **SPECT TO VENEZUELA.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appropriated
10 or otherwise made available for the Department of De-

1 fense, or for any other department or agency of the United
2 States Government, may be used to conduct hostilities
3 with respect to Venezuela, except—

4 (1) pursuant to a specific statutory authoriza-
5 tion enacted after the date of the enactment of this
6 Act; or

7 (2) pursuant to a congressional authorization
8 consistent with section 2(c) of the War Powers Reso-
9 lution (50 U.S.C. 1541(c)).

10 (b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
11 tion shall be construed to prevent the United States
12 from—

13 (1) acting to defend itself or its citizens from
14 an armed attack or the threat of an imminent armed
15 attack;

16 (2) acting to defend the United States Armed
17 Forces or United States personnel from an armed
18 attack;

19 (3) conducting lawful counternarcotics oper-
20 ations that do not constitute hostilities; or

21 (4) providing humanitarian assistance to the
22 people of Venezuela.

23 (c) HOSTILITIES DEFINED.—In this section, the
24 term “hostilities” means any situation involving any use
25 of lethal or potentially lethal force by United States forces,

1 whether such force is deployed remotely and irrespective
2 of the intermittency thereof.

3 (d) RELATION TO THE WAR POWERS RESOLU-
4 TION.—Nothing in this section supersedes any require-
5 ment of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et
6 seq.).