

Chemical Weapons Control and Accountability Act of 2013

Gives Syria an ultimatum to comply with international norms by renouncing and destroying chemical weapons

Co-Sponsors: Senators Manchin and Heitkamp

Why the need for an alternative to a military strike in Syria?

- A unilateral military strike will not produce the long-term result of securing Syria's chemical weapons, and bringing in international partners who are committed to preventing the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. A diplomatic approach is needed to secure and eventually eliminate Syria's chemical weapons in a transparent and accountable manner.

What this Bill Does:

- **Syria Renounces Chemical Weapons Program.** Mandates that the Government of Syria join the 191 countries that have signed the Chemical Weapons Convention within 45 days. After signing the Convention, the Government of Syria must begin the process of compliance, which includes declaring and destroying chemical weapons stockpiles and facilities.
- **Encourages Additional Diplomacy.** During the 45-day compliance period, the Resolution encourages President Obama to enhance his engagement with the international community to exhaust all diplomatic and non-military options regarding the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government.
- **Long-Term Strategy for Syria.** The bill requires a comprehensive, long-term strategy for Syria, which includes a review of current and planned policy to successfully resolve the ongoing Syrian civil war in a way that meets U.S. interests.

Additional Background:

- The 45-day period will also provide additional time for:
 - The Administration to build international consensus on an appropriate and unified response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, including at the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly from September 17 through October 2; and,
 - UN Weapons Inspectors to provide their final report on the use of chemical weapons in Syria to the international community.
- 191 countries have signed and/or ratified the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, or use of chemical weapons. The only non-signatories are: Angola, Egypt, North Korea, South Sudan, and Syria. The CWC represents a long-standing international treaty that can be used as a framework for international cooperation on the issue of Syria's chemical weapons. More information on the CWC can be found at: www.opcw.org.